

## Aruba TODAY

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### Sleight of Hand



Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) introduces his budget plan at a press conference in Washington, on July 18, 2011. Coburn's plan would cut over \$9 trillion from the national deficit over the coming decade.

(Philip Scott Andrews/The New York Times)

CARL HULSE

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**WASHINGTON** – With Republicans and Democrats still deeply divided over how to shrink the budget deficit and the national debt, the only way for them to avoid a financial crisis at this late date may be to perform a legislative magic trick. The idea, conjured by Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader, would allow Republicans to accede to an increase in the government's debt limit without actually voting for it or giving in to President Barack Obama's demand for tax increases as part of any deal. It would give the White House a way out of the box that it is in and avert a potential deeper blow to the economy. And it would allow Democrats to head into an election year having backed substantial spending cuts without having, so far, buckled to pressure to bite into the entitlement programs that represent core values to many liberal voters.

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# Scandal Grows



*2nd police official quits, whistleblower found dead*

A newscameraman films outside the Metropolitan Police headquarters in central London, Monday, July 18, 2011. London's Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner John Yates announced his resignation becoming the second high-profile casualty from the Metropolitan Police to resign in the past 24 hours. Additionally police say Sean Hoare, the whistleblower reporter who alleged widespread hacking at the News of the World, was found dead yesterday. (AP Photo/Leffler Pitarakis).



# 2nd police official quits, whistleblower dead

Continued from Front Page



**London's Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner John Yates during a press conference announcing his resignation, Monday, July 18, 2011. Former London police deputy John Yates says he acted with complete integrity in Britain's phone hacking crisis. Yates was the second high-profile casualty from the Metropolitan Police to resign in the past 24 hours. (AP Photo /Steve Parsons, Pool)**

C. VINOGRAD

J. LAWLESS

Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Scotland Yard's assistant commissioner resigned Monday, a day after his boss also quit, and fresh investigations of possible police wrongdoing were launched in the phone hacking scandal that has spread from Rupert Murdoch's media empire to the British prime minister's office.

Prime Minister David Cameron called an emergency session of Parliament on the scandal and cut short his visit to Africa to try to contain the widening crisis. Lawmakers on Tuesday are to question Murdoch, his son James and Rebekah Brooks, the former chief executive of Murdoch's U.K. newspaper arm.

In a further twist, a former News of the World reporter who helped blow the whistle on the scandal was found dead Monday in his home, but it was not be-

lieved to be suspicious.

Murdoch shut down the News of the World tabloid after it was accused of hacking into the voice mail of celebrities, politicians, other journalists and even murder victims.

The crisis has roiled the upper ranks of Britain's police, with Monday's resignation of Assistant Commissioner John Yates — Scotland Yard's top anti-terrorist officer — following that on Sunday of police chief Paul Stephenson over their links to Neil Wallis, an arrested former executive from Murdoch's shuttered News of the World tabloid whom police had employed as a media consultant.

The government quickly announced an inquiry into police-media relations and possible corruption.

Home Secretary Theresa May said that people were naturally asking "who polices the police," and announced an inquiry into "instances of undue influence,

inappropriate contractual arrangements and other abuses of power in police relationships with the media and other parties."

The Independent Police Complaints Commission also said it was looking into the claims, including one that Yates inappropriately helped get a job for Wallis' daughter. Wallis, former executive editor of News of the World, was arrested on suspicion of conspiring to intercept communications. Yates said he had done nothing wrong.

"I have acted with complete integrity," he said. "My conscience is clear."

In another development, police confirmed that a second former News of the World employee was employed by Scotland Yard. Alex Marunchak had been employed as a Ukrainian language interpreter with access to highly sensitive police information between 1980 and 2000, the Metropolitan Police said. □



**In this undated handout photo issued by News International, former News of the World reporter Sean Hoare. Police say Sean Hoare, the whistleblower reporter who alleged widespread hacking at the News of the World, has been found dead on Monday, July 18, 2011. Police said Hoare's death at his home in England was not considered to be suspicious, according to Britain's Press Association news agency.**

(AP Photo/News International/PA)

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## 'Jeopardy!' champion, Regulatory nominee

KEVIN ROOSE

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Richard Cordray, the former attorney general of Ohio, has a resume full of experience to lead the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

But President Barack Obama, in a news conference announcing Cordray's nomination to run the bureau, noted perhaps his quirkiest qualification for the job: his stint as a five-time champion on the game show "Jeopardy!"

A recap of Cordray's 1987 appearances found on a "Jeopardy!" archive site seem to support the accolades of the president, who called the record "not too shabby." In an appearance on April 27, 1987, Cordray, then 27, faced off against Bob, an accountant, and Eileen, a writer and editor. Cordray was introduced as "a judicial clerk from Grove City, Ohio," and drew plaudits from the host, Alex Trebek, who called his undefeated streak "very impressive."

Cordray, clean-cut and dressed in a dark suit and blue tie, won one Double Jeopardy round. He answered all five questions in the "Olympics" category correctly, winning \$3,000 and displaying broad knowledge of sports history. He correctly responded "What is physical education?" to the clue "As late as the 1930s, teachers of this subject were considered pros and ineligible for the Olympics." He also rightly identified Harold Abrahams as the 1924 gold medalist who was immortalized in the film "Chariots of Fire." In a moment of fiscal irresponsibility, Cordray wagered all \$1,000 of his winnings on a Daily Double: "Ecclesiastes says 'A man hath no better thing under the sun than to' do these three 'hedonistic' things." He paused slightly before responding, correctly, "What are 'eat, drink, and be merry?'" □

## Legislative sleight of hand may be possible fallback

Continued from Front

That, at least, is the goal of the approach offered by McConnell, who continued to work with Sen. Harry Reid, the Democratic majority leader, on Monday to refine their fallback proposal even as the parties exchanged fire leading up to coming floor fights in the House and Senate over a Republican deficit-reduction plan. The Senate leaders are developing cuts and other deficit-reduction provisions to provide some lubricant to pass the measure, which has been ridiculed by many Republicans as a major cop-out. While negotiations continued, House and Senate Republicans plan to focus their energy this week on the so-called cut, cap and balance proposal embraced by conservatives. It would reduce spending next year by more than \$100 billion, cap future

spending based as a percentage of the economy and require a balanced budget amendment to be

scheduled for Tuesday even began, the administration issued a veto threat on behalf of Obama, who



**Rep. Virginia Foxx, R-NC, right, a member of the House Rules Committee, speaks with House Budget Committee member Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, left, before he testifies on the so-called "cut, cap and balance" plan proposed by tea party-backed House Republicans, at the Capitol in Washington, Monday, July 18, 2011.**

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

approved by Congress and sent to the states for ratification before the debt limit could be increased.

Before the House debate

on Sunday had a private meeting at the White House with the two top House Republicans – Speaker John A. Boehner of Ohio and

Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia, the majority leader.

"The bill would undercut the federal government's ability to meet its core commitments to seniors, middle-class families and the most vulnerable, while reducing our ability to invest in our future," the White House said in a statement.

It said the measure "would set unrealistic spending caps that could result in significant cuts to education, research and development, and other programs critical to growing our economy and winning the future."

Cantor said the president was being too hasty in his dismissal of the legislation and called the Republican plan a "common sense" proposal to "ensure that Washington begins to live within its means and put in place a constitutional balanced budget amendment that will make balancing our budget the rule, not the exception." □

FBI:

## US couple kidnapped Israeli to force divorce

JOSH LEDERMAN

Associated Press

**TRENTON, New Jersey (AP)** — A rabbi and his wife surrendered to the FBI on Monday on charges that they abducted an Israeli man, beat him and threatened to bury him alive if he didn't give his wife a religious divorce.

The case against David Wax and his wife in U.S. federal court marks a strange twist in a chain of events that started with a divorce dispute in Israel's Rabbinical Court over the victim's refusal to give his wife a "get," an Orthodox Jewish divorce document permitting a wife to remarry.

It also entangles a prominent religious figure and publisher of Jewish texts, described as a "pillar of the community" of Lakewood, New Jersey, a large Orthodox enclave and center of Jewish learning. David Wax, 49, and Judy Wax, 47, made a brief appearance in federal court Monday before being released on \$500,000 bond each. A grand jury will decide whether to indict

them on kidnapping charges, which could result in a life sentence if they are convicted. "We're confident that when all the facts are made public, he'll be cleared of these charges and his good and honorable name will be restored," Mitchell Ansell, David Wax's

attorney, told The Associated Press. Absent from U.S. court documents is the name of the victim, Yisrael Briskman, who apparently fled Israel after refusing to grant a divorce. But his name shows up in a 2008 public notice from the High Rabbinical Court

of Jerusalem, placed in religious publications in Israel and abroad announcing a ruling against Briskman in the divorce case.

The notice forbids community members from doing business with Briskman, allowing him to study in a Jewish seminary or giving him a place to stay. Under the headline "Wanted," it calls upon the public to notify the court of Briskman's whereabouts. "It is not permitted to extend to him a kindness or favor in any form," the notice reads.

Two years later, according to the FBI complaint, Briskman was lured to the Wax's Lakewood home on Oct. 16, 2010, to discuss opportunities for Briskman to work on a book the rabbi was writing about the Talmud, a central Jewish text. □



**Rabbi David Wax, 49, and his wife Judy Wax, 47, walk out of federal court Monday, July 18, 2011, in Trenton, N.J., after a brief appearance before being released on \$500,000 bond each. A grand jury will decide whether to indict them on kidnapping charges, which could result in a life sentence if they are convicted. They surrendered to the FBI earlier Monday on charges that they abducted an Israeli man, beat him and threatened to bury him alive if he didn't give his wife a religious divorce.**

(AP Photo/Mel Evans)



## Heat wave hardest on US's poorest communities

JUAN CARLOS LLORCA

Associated Press

HORIZON CITY, Texas (AP)

— The cinderblocks that make up Maria Teresa Escamilla's new home will do little to shield her from the scorching heat that has been blanketing West Texas. She has no electricity yet, and the roof is not properly attached, leaving the interior exposed to the elements.

Escamilla has been living in an air-conditioned apartment that she can no longer afford. But when the lease ends in two weeks, she has to move — a day she dreads because it means she'll have no escape from the searing temperatures over 100 degrees (37 Celsius).

"This is what I have to look forward to," she said. There will be no air conditioning and an unbearable number of mosquitoes at night. With much of America in the grip of a broiling heat wave, few people are hit as hard as the poor, and few places are poorer than the ramshackle communities along the Texas-Mexico border known as "colonias." The misery was widespread Monday, with the worst conditions blanketing a broad band from Texas to Minnesota and Dakotas. Seventeen states issued heat watches, warnings or

advisories.

The high temperatures were nearly certain to persist for the entire week. Forecasters expected the extreme discomfort to spread soon to the East Coast.

In towns large and small,

funeral services and buy building materials recycled from demolition sites in Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso.

Norma Salazar, who shares a tiny trailer home with her husband and six children in Horizon City, on the outskirts



**A child cools off in mist at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Neb., Monday, July 18, 2011. A heat wave is smothering the Midwest with a heat index well over 100 in most places. Cooling centers are opening, and farmers are scrambling to prevent more livestock deaths.**

(AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

the withering heat was cruelest to those who could not afford air conditioning. Built at the edge of the desert, the colonias often lack electricity and running water. People bought the land before zoning regulations were adopted, hoping that utility services would follow.

To finance her house, Escamilla, who is 62, had to take out a loan against her

of El Paso, has to rely on an evaporative cooler, a cheap alternative to air conditioning that sucks the hot, dry desert air through a mesh of water-soaked fibers. But it only cools half of the trailer, and when the heat climbs above 100 degrees (37 Celsius), not even that. "When it gets really hot, we turn on the fans and stay inside," Salazar said. □

## U.S. Briefs

### Somali pleads guilty to terror

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — A man pleaded guilty Monday to a terror charge for helping Somali men travel from Minneapolis to their homeland to take up arms with a militant group, averting what would have been the first trial in a long-running federal investigation into the recruiting of U.S. fighters for al-Shabab. Omer Abdi Mohamed, 26, of St. Anthony entered his plea the day before he was to face trial on six counts. He pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists, specifically admitting he helped provide people as part of a conspiracy to murder, kidnap and maim others in a foreign country. He faces a maximum of 15 years in prison and supervised release for the rest of his life when sentenced later. Mohamed didn't travel to Somalia, but admitted he attended secret meetings and helped with the men who traveled. "I helped them get tickets," he said in court. □

### Over U.S. soldier death:

### Suspect cannot fire lawyers

**LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (AP)** — An Arkansas judge says a man charged with killing a soldier outside an Arkansas military recruiting center cannot fire his lawyers. Judge Herbert Wright summoned potential jurors to the courtroom Monday after saying Abdulhakim Muhammad could not serve as his own attorney. The defendant rocked in his chair while lawyers read a witness list to the jurors and asked whether any knew them. Of the nearly 50 potential jurors in Wright's small courtroom, only four hadn't heard about the case. One potential juror says he graduated with a soldier wounded in the 2009 attack. Muhammad told The Associated Press he shot Pvt. William Andrew Long in retaliation for U.S. military action in the Middle East. He could face the death penalty if convicted. □

### Calif. CEO:

### Son, girlfriend die same week

**CORONADO, California (AP)** — The wealthy and largely crime-free San Diego suburb of Coronado is grappling with two deaths in one week — both of them tied to a historic mansion on the Pacific Ocean.

The parents of 6-year-old Max Shacknai said late Sunday that the boy died from injuries suffered when he fell down some stairs at the Spreckels mansion last week. The announcement came five days after 32-year-old Rebecca Zahau was found dead with a rope tied around the neck of her nude body and her hands and feet bound. She was hanging from a second-floor balcony. Arizona pharmaceuticals tycoon Jonah Shacknai was the boy's father and the woman's boyfriend. Days earlier, Shacknai's son, Max, who was being cared for by Zahau, fell down the stairs and was hospitalized. His parents said late Sunday that he died from his injuries. Investigators say the son's death was an accident. They say Zahau's death is suspicious, but haven't ruled out suicide. Authorities repeated Monday they haven't established any link between the boy's fall and the woman's death. They declined to further discuss evidence in the case. □

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# Post-9/11, biggest terror threat is underground

TOM HAYS

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — It's the morning rush in the Times Square subway station, a routine convergence of humanity and mass transit that makes New York City hum. Mixing seamlessly with subway riders are New York Police Department officers with heavy body armor and high-powered rifles, commanders in blue NYPD polo shirts carrying smart phone-size radiation detectors and a panting police dog named Sabu.

"This is the new normal," Inspector Scott Shanley of the NYPD's Counterterrorism Division says. "The only people who sometimes get raised up are tourists."

Since terrorists brought down the twin towers on Sept. 11, 2001, subways have been bombed in terror attacks across the world, including in Madrid, London and this spring in Minsk, Belarus.

The possibility that New York's sprawling, porous and famously gritty subway system could be next has become a constant worry — leading to a new normal of suspicious package alerts, bomb-sniffing dogs, cameras trained on commuters and passengers listening to the missive, "if you see something, say something."

The campaigns encouraging residents to report suspicious activity strike Manhattan writer Anne Nelson, 57, as Orwellian. "New York is about expression

and life and vibrancy," she said, walking through Times Square. "It's not about living in an atmosphere of

the commuter rail network in 2004, killing 191 people and wounding more than 1,800; in London, another

was "to conduct a martyrdom operation on the subway lines in Manhattan." The NYPD also foiled a 2004

one that you can't totally protect," said William Bratton, a security firm executive who's headed New York and Los Angeles' police departments and was chief of the New York City transit police. "That's the reality of it. ... It's a unique challenge."

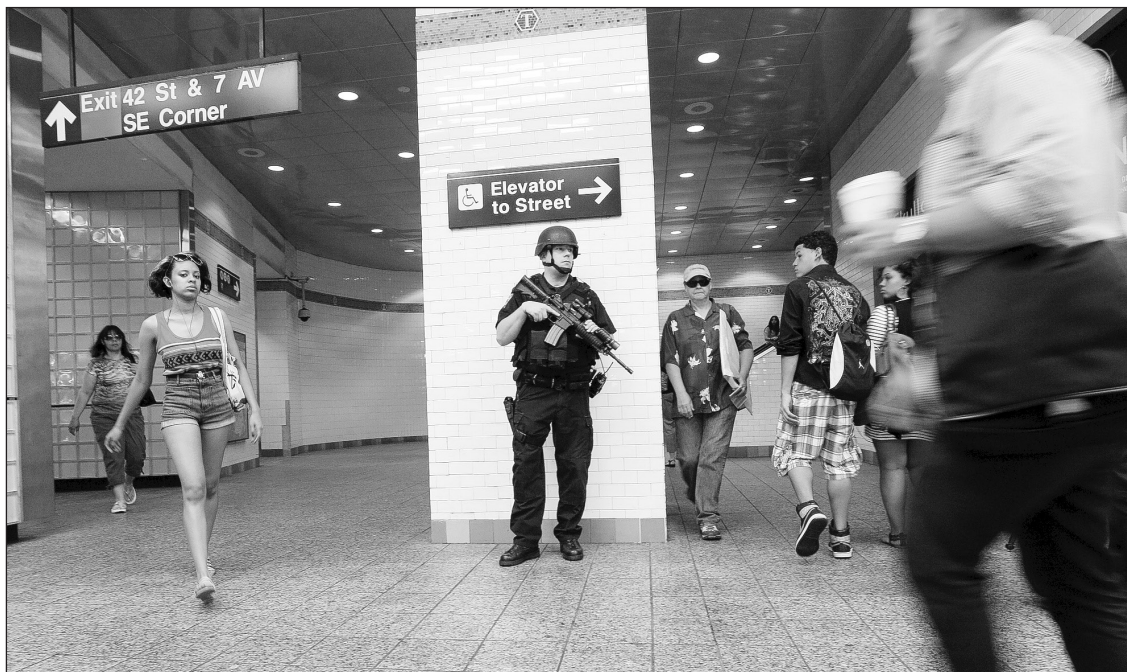
Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly has said the NYPD tries to meet that challenge by going to "extraordinary lengths" in the subways "to make our presence seen and felt in different ways, giving would-be terrorists and common criminals cause to think twice."

Pre-2001, covering that ground meant mostly fighting conventional crime — from robberies and assaults to fare beating and drug possession. Post, the department has asked its 2,500 uniformed and plain-clothes transit officers to fight terror as well.

Officers have been given training in how to spot terror suspects casing the subways. They've also been instructed to be on the alert for people walking in a stiff manner, sweating heavily and talking to themselves — signs of a potential suicide bomber.

The counterterror arsenal includes more than 30 bomb-sniffing dogs; silent alarms and motion detectors to prevent tampering with ventilation systems to make a chemical or biological attack more lethal;

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**A heavily armed New York City police officer stands guard at a Times Square subway station in New York. Since terrorists brought down the twin towers on Sept. 11, 2001, subways have been bombed across the world, including Madrid, London and this spring in Minsk. The possibility that New York's sprawling, porous and famously gritty subway system could be next has become a constant worry.**

fear."

But authorities here believe a serious attack on the 24-hour subway system with more than 400 stations, would potentially cripple the city in ways worse than the Sept. 11, 2001 attack — a concern shared by U.S. cities and countries reliant on mass transit and viewed as enemies by terrorists.

The human toll — going back to Aum Shinrikyo cult's 1995 nerve gas attack that killed 12 people and injured thousands in Tokyo's subways — has already been devastating. In Madrid, Islamic militants set off 10 backpack bombs on

suicide bomb strike killed 52 commuters and injured 700 in the city's deadliest attack since World War II; and earlier this year in Minsk, a remote-controlled bomb killed 12 people and wounded 200 in the city's main subway station.

In New York, no one has pulled off an attack, but there have been plenty of scares. Last year, a home-grown al-Qaida operative, Najibullah Zazi, pleaded guilty to plotting a suicide bomb attack timed for rush hour to cause the most bloodshed.

The former airport shuttle driver told a judge his plan

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

plot to bomb Manhattan's Herald Square subway station. And there were reports in that al-Qaida considered a cyanide attack on the subway system in 2003.

New York's subway system, the largest in the U.S., has more than 465 far-flung stations, most with multiple entrances, and 800 miles (1,290 kilometers) of track. Last year, it carried 5.2 million riders on the average weekday — more than double the number of travelers who pass through U.S. airports each day.

"It's really a potentially very vulnerable environment —



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# Trying to revive trusted traveler program

**JOE SHARKEY**

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Like most business travelers, I'd welcome the opportunity to provide the government with some basic information to indicate that I am not inclined to acts of terrorism, and in turn to receive a special pass that lets me get through airport security with my shoes on and my personal dignity relatively intact. Yet it's demonstrably easier said than done to come up with a so-called trusted traveler program, which would give expedited security treatment to travelers who essentially obtain a checkmark of approval in advance of their flight from the Transportation Security Administration. And there are critics who claim it shouldn't be

done anyway.

For more than a decade, such initiatives have floundered, whether proposed by the government or initiated by private enterprises. For example, there was Verified Identify Pass, which spent millions to install its Clear checkpoints in about two dozen airports, and then went out of business in 2009 when it became apparent that the ID cards, encoded with each member's biometric data, offered little more than a head-of-line pass through security. Clear is now under new ownership that is trying to rejuvenate the private program. Meanwhile, John S. Pistole, the head of the TSA, is taking another run at a federally managed trusted traveler program. Last



**John Pistole, the head of the Transportation Security Administration, said the agency would start a test program this fall to implement a "risk-based, intelligence-driven" security system that would provide pre-approved passengers with boarding passes encoded with personal identification information, allowing them to use special checkpoint lanes in which security procedures would be "expedited."** (Chris Gash/The New York Times)

week, he said the agency would start a test program this fall of a "risk-based, intelligence-driven" security system that would provide preapproved passengers with boarding passes encoded with personal identification information, allowing them to use special checkpoint lanes in which security procedures would be "expedited."The agency has not described exactly what "expedited" security would entail, but in the past trusted traveler proposals have been predicated on the presumption that approved passengers would receive quicker, less intrusive screening, including benefits like not having to remove their shoes, if reliable technology were developed.□

## Post-9/11 threat

Continued from Page 5

and a vast system of security cameras wired with live feeds from Penn Station, Grand Central Terminal and Herald Square. More new normal: Random bag checks — once challenged in court as a civil rights violation — are done tens of thousands of times each year in the subways with barely any complaints. The department uses high-tech detection devices to screen riders for peroxides or nitrates common in homemade explosives, sometimes with the help of agents on loan from the Transportation Safety Administration.

The bag searches are part of life in Boston and in Washington, D.C., where a Virginia man admitted

this year to joining what he thought was an al-Qaida plot to bomb Washington's Metrorail system. The "see something, say something" campaign" started in New York is now a mantra aboard Amtrak. New York's strategy also includes regular tunnel inspections and roving teams of officers who go onto subway cars asking passengers to beware of suspicious packages. The officers can calm commuters, discourage would-be attacks or disrupt plots already set in motion, police say. Police rely on counterterrorism drills to stay sharp. One exercise involves having an undercover officer with a mock device, stashed in a backpack and emitting gamma rays, slip into the subway to test the ability to detect and neutralize real

radioactive threats. Above ground, the department has dispatched detectives to Moscow, Madrid, London and Mumbai, India, to see what lessons can be learned from overseas terror attacks. London's transit system has long been affected by the threat of bombs — there are no garbage bins on the subway or in train stations, for example, a legacy of the years when London was an IRA target. After the 2005 attack, emergency services were criticized for lapses in their response — confusion, a shortage of first aid supplies and radios that did not work underground. Police have since been issued digital radios capable of operating throughout the subway system; and some members of the British Transport Police officers

now patrol the transit network with guns. Most British police do not carry firearms. Home Secretary Theresa May, the government official responsible for MI5, said earlier this year that "a considerable number of improvements" had been put in place since 2005 but declined to give details for security reasons. In Spain, the national rail company Renfe said security measures on that network have in fact been beefed up since the massacre. But it refused to give details, calling the issue confidential and sensitive. Another state-owned company, Adif, which manages Spain's long-distance train stations, said it has assigned more guards at train stations and broadened use of closed-circuit security cameras.□

**Police:**

## U.S. teen killed parents, then threw party

**MATT SEDENSKY**

**Associated Press**

**WEST PALM BEACH, Florida**

**(AP)** — A 17-year-old boy is accused of bludgeoning his parents with a hammer, then hosting dozens of friends for a party while their bodies lay in the bedroom, police said Monday. Tyler Hadley of Florida is charged with twin counts of first-degree murder in the deaths, which authorities say happened Saturday.

He is being held without bond at a juvenile detention center and it's not immediately known whether he has an attorney.

The parents — Blake and Mary-Jo Hadley — were believed to have been struck with the hammer in their heads and torsos sometime after their son posted on Facebook around 1:15 p.m.

Saturday alerting friends to an evening party at his house, north of West Palm Beach.

Investigators believe the parents were attacked outside their master bedroom and the bodies were moved into the bedroom and the door locked.

As many as 60 people attended the party that night, according to Port St. Lucie Police spokesman Tom Nichols.

They were loud enough to prompt a noise complaint and a visit by police officers. When they arrived at 1:30 a.m. Sunday to warn about the noise, the party was already breaking up, Nichols said.□





**A police motorcade transporting former Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader after he was extradited from Austria to Croatia moves towards Remetinec prison in Zagreb, Croatia, Monday, July 18, 2011. Austrian police detained Sanader on Dec. 10 after Croatian authorities issued an international arrest warrant charging him of corruption while in office.**

(AP Photo)

## Ex-Croatian premier back home

**ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)** — Former Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader, who left his country for Austria while being investigated for corruption, was extradited home Monday night.

After a judge approved his release from a prison in Salzburg, Austria, Croatian police escorted Sanader to Zagreb, where he was imprisoned, Croatian police spokesman Krunoslav Borovec said on Croatian TV. The former prime minister was driven home under tight security, Borovec said. Witnesses said police sealed off the area of Croatia where the motorcade arrived with Sanader.

He is the highest-ranking official to be charged with a crime since Croatia became independent in 1991. The former Yugoslav republic has promised to root out corruption as it is slated to join the European Union in 2013.

Sanader was the premier of Croatia for six years before resigning in 2009.

On Dec. 10, 2010, Croatian authorities issued an international arrest warrant suspecting him of corruption while in office.

The previous day Sanader had left Croatia on what he called a business trip to Austria, raising suspicion that he knew he was about to be arrested. □

# Greek FM says European debt deal is 'attainable'

**DEREK GATOPOULOS  
NICHOLAS PAPHITIS**

**Associated Press**

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)** — A European debt deal is "attainable" at an emergency EU summit Thursday, Greece's finance minister said, signaling progress in talks between European governments and private bond holders in drawing up a new rescue deal for Greece.

Evangelos Venizelos also told The Associated Press in an interview late Monday that Greece remains on course to reach a primary budget surplus next year, despite missing key fiscal targets so far in 2011.

Greece is enacting major economic reforms alongside an austerity program as it grapples with a national debt topping €340 billion (\$477.5 billion) that have brought it to the brink of default.

Leaders of countries that use the euro are to attend the emergency talks in Brussels on Thursday, amid fears the fallout from Greece's woes could spread to larger European countries. Borrowing costs in eurozone members Italy and Spain have risen alarmingly in recent days.

"Reaching a solution is attainable because this solution does not only include Greece," Venizelos said in his central Athens office. "At issue is the euro and the resilience of the eurozone. That is why protection of Greece is a self defense mechanism for the eurozone. That will help us avoid a domino effect."

He described the recent pressure on Italian and Spanish borrowing rates resulting from bets against those countries and the euro by financial speculators.

"(We are witnessing) organized attacks on countries with very good macroeconomic data, such as Italy for example," he said. "There is no panic, this is a very cool-headed and well-organized attack."

Greece is being kept afloat by €110 billion in emergency loans from other eurozone members and the International Monetary Fund,

but remains locked out of bond markets by high interest rates and will require a second bailout expected to involve a similar amount. "We want a solution that makes our national debt sustainable ... guarantees

banks," Venizelos said.

A new bailout deal is likely to involve banks and other Greek bondholders making voluntary contributions to deferring Athens' debt payments. But rating agencies have warned private

arrangement are being negotiated at talks between European Union officials and private investors in Rome.

Venizelos said Greece is hoping to avoid being placed under the selective default rating — an assessment that could plunge Europe's worsening debt crisis into greater turbulence — and indicated progress had been achieved in Rome.

"Our aim is to avoid even a selective default," he said. "There are proposals that provide an answer to what is sought and at the same time do not permit ratings agencies to issue that rating."

He added: "I believe we will be able ... to achieve something which will be secure, positive for the viability of the public debt, and will safeguard Greece as a country and the Greek banking system."

Venizelos said Greece had already taken the toughest measures needed to steer the economy back to fiscal health. □



**Greek finance minister Evangelos Venizelos speaks during an interview with The Associated Press at his office in Athens, Monday, July 18, 2011. Venizelos says a European debt deal is "attainable" at the European Union summit on Thursday.**

(AP Photo/Dimitri Messinis)

Greece's borrowing needs until in mid-2014 when we foresee our return to the markets, and guarantees the liquidity of Greek

involvement could prompt them to further downgrade Greece credit status to selective default.

Details of that potential ar-

## No doubt Chavez will run in 2012 vote, aide says

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**

— An aide to Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez said Monday that there is no doubt the president will run for re-election next year despite his struggle with cancer. The remark by Finance Minister Jorge Giordani came as Chavez was in Cuba undergoing cancer treatment.

"There's no doubt he's going to be there in the 2012 elections, and afterward for many more years," Giordani said in an interview on state television.

Chavez has not been seen on television since he arrived in Cuba on Saturday night. He said before leaving that he expected to begin chemotherapy Sunday. The 56-year-old president, who has been in office more than 12 years, has indicated he intends to continue with his re-election campaign next year despite his illness.

Two messages were posted on Chavez's Twitter account Monday, including



**Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, flanked by his daughters Rosa Virginia, right, and Gabriela, gestures at Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, Venezuela. An aide to Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez said Monday that there is no doubt the president will run for re-election next year despite his struggle with cancer.**

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

one urging supporters to tune in to Giordani's interview.

An earlier message read: "Good morning beautiful Venezuela!! From here, ready for another day of battle for life. We will live and we will be victorious!" Chavez underwent sur-

gery in Cuba on June 20 to remove a cancerous tumor, which he has said was the size of a baseball. He hasn't said what type of cancer has been diagnosed or specified where exactly it was located, saying only that it was in his pelvic region. □



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# Gen. Petraeus hands over command in Afghanistan



**The outgoing U.S. and NATO led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) commander in Afghanistan Gen. David Petraeus claps, as he welcomes the new NATO- led International Security Assistance Force commander in Afghanistan U.S. Gen. John Allen during a changing of command ceremony in Kabul, Afghanistan on Monday, July 18, 2011. Gen. John Allen took over command of American and coalition forces in Afghanistan on Monday from Gen. David Petraeus, assuming responsibility as Afghanistan's international allies draw up exit plans from the nearly 10-year conflict.**  
(AP Photo/Musadeq Sadeq)

**PATRICK QUINN, Associated Press KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)** — Gen. David Petraeus handed over command of the Afghan war to Marine Gen. John Allen on Monday as the U.S. and its international partners prepare to withdraw over the next few years. Petraeus, widely credited with turning the tide in Iraq, left to take over the CIA with his signature counter-insurgency strategy having yet to deliver a safer Afghanistan or push the Taliban to reconcile with the country's Western-backed government. Allen is known for helping turn Sunni insurgents against al-Qaida in Iraq in one of that war's most pivotal stages. In Afghanistan, he will be tasked with the overseeing the start of the American troop withdrawal this month even as insur-

gents step up the violence and attacks on high-profile Afghans, including the assassination last week of President Hamid Karzai's powerful half brother and the slaying of a close Karzai aid on Sunday. Allen said the drawdown of U.S. forces and the transition of some areas to Afghan control this week does not mean international forces are easing up in their campaign to defeat the Taliban insurgency, though he acknowledged the fight won't be easy. "It is my intention to maintain the momentum of the campaign," Allen said at the handover ceremony in the Afghan capital. "There will be tough days ahead. I have no illusions about the challenges." Allen, who takes command of about 130,000 U.S. and NATO troops, has said he supports President Barack Obama's plan to withdraw a third of

the U.S. forces in Afghanistan by next year. But Allen told a Senate hearing last month that the schedule set by Obama was more aggressive than the military had anticipated. Obama did not set a minimum number of troops to be pulled out this month, but required only that 10,000 be gone by the end of the year and that another 23,000 be back home by September 2012. As it draws down, the U.S. is hoping for results from an ambitious and costly multibillion dollar plan to build the Afghan security forces. All foreign combat forces are set to leave Afghanistan by the end of 2014, and Allen has said he hopes the drawdown will impress

on Afghan leaders that they must urgently grow the number and capabilities of their own security forces to take over. The Afghan government plans to have 305,000 trained soldiers and policemen by this October with a goal of just under 400,000 by the time foreign combat troops leave. There have been fears in Afghanistan that the U.S. decision to draw down could lead to a precipitous withdrawal of other foreign troops. Afghan Defense Minister Abdul Rahim Wardak said he hoped Petraeus' appointment to the role of CIA director will temper calls for a quick withdrawal of U.S. forces and funding. "His broad intellect, his unmatched experiences

and knowledge of the ground realities will make him a counterbalance to all those shortsighted, politically inspired isolationists and the groups of Beltway bandits, and U.S. national security councils," Wardak said. "Any wavering of the resolve or premature drawdown and exit strategy will put in jeopardy all that we have achieved." A Petraeus leaves, it remains unclear whether his strategy — with an emphasis on protecting the local population and decisive strikes against insurgents — has made Afghanistan any safer. Last week, the United Nations reported that the number of Afghan civilians killed in war-related violence. □

## Indonesia's Mount Lokon volcano erupts twice

**GRACEY WAKARI Associated Press TOMOHON, Indonesia (AP)** — An Indonesian volcano spewed hot gases and ash in two eruptions Monday that show high and unpredictable activity from the volatile mountain, experts said. The second blast at Mount Lokon was the larger of the two afternoon eruptions, spewing ash as high as 2,000 feet (600 meters) into the air, said Farid Ruskanda Bina, a government volcanologist stationed near the volcano on northern Sulawesi island. The eruptions were about 10 minutes apart. The long-dormant mountain rumbled to life last week, and an eruption Sunday released the greatest amount of energy so far, shooting soot and debris 11,400 feet (3,500 meters) into the sky. About 5,200 people living near-

est the crater have fled in recent days to schools, mosques and other makeshift shelters near the base. More than 33,000 people live along the slopes of Mount Lokon, growing cloves and coffee on its fertile slopes. No injuries or

damages were reported from Monday's eruptions, said Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, a spokesman for the National Disaster Management Agency. One person died of a heart attack during an evacuation last week. □



**Mount Lokon spews volcanic smoke in Tomohon, North Sulawesi, Indonesia, Tuesday, July 12, 2011. Officials raised the alert for the Indonesian volcano with history of violent explosions to its highest level Monday, following a series of eruptions over the weekend.**  
(AP Photo/Grace Wakary)





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## Jews: Argentina and Iran both failed in bomb probe

ALMUDENA CALATRAVA

Associated Press

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)** — Seventeen years after 85 people died in Argentina's worst terrorist attack, their relatives criticized both Iran and their own government Monday for failing to solve the case.

Speaking at a ceremony on the anniversary of the 1994 attack on a Jewish community center, family members complained about the lack of progress in bringing those responsible to justice by politicians who have condemned the attacks.

"Such hypocrisy is sickening," said Sergio Burstein, who represents relatives of victims in the bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association.

As President Cristina Fernandez listened silently in a cold winter rain outside the rebuilt community center, Burstein called on Iran to turn over the seven of its citizens accused of organizing the bombing.

But he also turned his anger at the investigative failures of Argentina's police, courts and politicians. He said families are furious at the "impunity, corruption, complacency, lies and hypocrisy" that has characterized the case.

Burstein pointed to Carlos Menem, Argentina's president at the time of the 1994 attack. Menem is charged with interfering in the probe by steering investigators away from a businessman friend who was implicated in the attack and, like Menem, has deep family ties to Syria.

Menem has been a senator since leaving the presidency, so is immune from pretrial detention. "If this were a respectable country, this man would have a seat, but in prison," Burstein said.

AMIA President Guillermo Borger was among other Jewish leaders who questioned why the investigation hasn't led to Argentines who might have been involved, other than one man who provided a van allegedly used in the attack.

"Seventeen years for searching without a result are too many. We can't keep waiting," Borger said.

On the eve of Monday's anniversary of the attack, Iran made an offer to Argentine Foreign Minister Hector Timerman characterized as "an unprecedented and very positive step." Iran, which denies its citizens were involved, said it is preparing its own report on the bombing and wants to begin a dialogue with the Argentines to help solve the case.

The Iranian overture was dismissed as hypocritical by the prosecutor in the case, Alberto Nisman, and Argentine Cabinet chief Anibal Fernandez said "there's no negotiating with terrorism."

"The only way out is through justice," Fernandez said, adding that Argentina's foreign ministry will need to study just how far Iran is willing to go.

Iran's statement said its citizens have been unjustly accused and it has a duty to defend them.

Still, Timerman said he is optimistic Iran will help solve what he described as a crime against humanity. □

## Gadhafi government holds talks with US officials

PAUL SCHEMM

Associated Press

**TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)** — Representatives of Moammar Gadhafi's embattled government held face-to-face talks with U.S. officials in neighboring Tunisia over the weekend, a Libyan government official said Monday, describing the meeting as a first step in opening dialogue. A U.S. State Department official confirmed the meeting took place but said it was only to deliver a clear and firm message that Gadhafi must step down. The U.S. official said it was not a negotiating session and no future meetings were planned.

The talks came after Friday's decision by the United States and more than 30 other nations meeting in Istanbul to recognize the eastern-based rebels fighting Gadhafi's government as the country's legitimate representatives, added the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the meeting publicly.

Libyan spokesman Moussa Ibrahim told reporters in Tripoli that the talks were held Saturday in Tunisia but he refused to say which officials took part.

"This is a first step and we want to take further steps," he said. "We don't want to be stuck in the past; we want to move forward all the time," he told reporters in the corridors of the hotel where foreign journalists are required to reside.

He described it as a "a first-step dialogue" to see about repairing relations between the two countries, which he said had been damaged by misinformation.

The U.S. was an active participant in NATO airstrikes

against Libyan forces that began March 19 and were authorized under a U.N. mandate to protect Libyan civilians from Gadhafi's advancing forces.

The U.S. later turned over command of the air campaign to NATO and now plays a largely logistical role in the continuing airstrikes. Fighting continued Monday around the eastern oil port of Brega. An Associated Press reporter on the scene witnessed rocket duels between the opposing sides and the thick black smoke of burning oil terminals blanketing the sky.



A family walks past a stand selling children's clothes at a market in the Old City of Tripoli, Libya, Monday, July 18, 2011. Representatives of Moammar Gadhafi's embattled government held face-to-face talks with U.S. officials in neighboring Tunisia over the weekend, a Libyan government official said Monday, describing the meeting as a first step in opening dialogue.

(AP Photo/Tara Todras-Whitehill)

ated Press reporter on the scene witnessed rocket duels between the opposing sides and the thick black smoke of burning oil terminals blanketing the sky. In Tripoli, Ibrahim claimed that more than 500 rebels had been killed in five days of failed assaults against the strategic town. Rebels, however, have only reported a handful of casualties and maintain fighting continues in their attempt to take the oil terminal on the front lines of the civil war. The government spokesman said the rebels at-

tacked by sea using boats and along a desert highway and the main coastal road, but were bloodily repelled in every case.

"In these waves of attacks, unfortunately, 520 of the rebel forces have been killed in these five days," he said. "This huge number came because of the lack of experience on the rebels' part."

Rebels have reported not more than two dozen dead

in the last several days and scores wounded, but nowhere near the amount claimed by Ibrahim. They also maintain they have partial control of the city.

"Do not believe the rumors, lies and misinformation spread widely by the rebels; we have complete control," said Ibrahim, adding that they would defend the city and its oil to the death. "We will turn Brega into hell. We will not give Brega up even if it causes the death of thousands of rebels and the destruction of the city," he said. □



# Nelson Mandela celebrates 93rd birthday in SAfrica

**NASTASYA TAY**  
**Associated Press**

**JOHANNESBURG (AP)**—Former President Nelson Mandela spent his 93rd birthday with friends and relatives in his rural hometown Monday, as South Africans paid tribute to the anti-apartheid icon through song and community service projects. Millions of South African schoolchildren began their day by singing a special version of "Happy Birthday" To Mandela, leading worldwide chorus of birthday wishes. U.S. President Barack Obama called Mandela "a beacon for the global community, and for all who work for democracy, justice and reconciliation." In 2009, the United Nations established Nelson Mandela International Day to honor the African leader on his birthday through acts of community service. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged people around the world "to make a difference" by tutoring a child, feeding the hungry or volunteering at a hospital or community center.

"A healer of nations and a mentor to generations, Nelson Mandela — or Madi-ba as he is affectionately known by millions — is a living symbol of wisdom, courage and integrity," Ban said. "Together, the best way we can thank Nelson Mandela for his work is by taking ac-

tion for others and inspiring change." South Africa's current president, Jacob Zuma, also paid a visit to Mandela in his home village of Qunu, some 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) south of

also to eat cake. There was a huge cake," Zuma said with a smile. "Mandela is absolutely in good spirits," he said. Photos released of Mandela showed the 93-year-old smiling broadly



**In this hand out photograph supplied by Peter Morey Photographic for the Mandela family, showing former South Africa president Nelson Mandela, center, with family members left to right Zaziwe Manaway, Ziphokazi Manaway, Zamaswazi Dlamini and Zamak Obiri at Mandela's hometown in Qunu, South Africa, Sunday July 17, 2011. Mandela celebrates his 93rd birthday Monday July 18, 2011. Center back is Mandela's daughter Princess Zenani Dlamini.**

**(AP Photo/Peter Morey Photographic-HO)**

Johannesburg. Zuma spent more than two hours with the former president, before leaving with members of the Mandela family, including the icon's former wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. "I came to spend time with the Mandela family, to rejoice with them, but

while sitting in a yellow fabric arm chair surrounded by relatives. People around the world were asked to mark his birthday by giving 67 minutes of their time to work in their local community — one minute for every year of Mandela's public service. □

# Taliban video shows killing of 16 Pakistanis

**SALMAN MASOOD**

**© 2011 New York Times**

**ISLAMABAD** — Taliban insurgents released a video showing them killing 16 Pakistani men who were captured in a raid in a restive northwestern province last month, a spokesman for the Pakistani military said Monday.

The video shows the 16 men, most of whom appear to be Pakistani police officers, standing in a line with their hands tied behind their backs. Four insurgents stand in front, holding assault rifles, with their faces covered by scarves. One insurgent makes a speech in Pashto, the language spoken in the country's northwest, accusing the men of killing six children in the Swat district.

The speaker in the video describes the men as "murtards" — those who have abandoned Islam — according to a translation of the statement posted by The Long War Journal, a website that specializes in reports on militancy.

"They are the Pakistani police, soldiers, and their supporters who recently lined up six kids in Swat and shot them execution-style," the insurgent says. "These Pakistanis are now our captives, and we will avenge the death of the children by doing the same to them." A quick burst of gunfire follows. The men fall to the ground, and some can be heard moaning. Then an insurgent approaches them one by one and fires rounds into each man who appears to still be alive.

The video runs for 5 minutes 36 seconds.

No Taliban group has yet claimed responsibility for the video, which was first shown on the LiveLeak video-sharing website.

Pakistani officials said last month that hundreds of Taliban insurgents had crossed into the country over the border from Afghanistan and on June 1 attacked a police post in Barawal, a village surrounded by rugged mountains and forests in the Shaltalo area of Upper Dir, a district in northwestern Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Province. Shaltalo is near the border with Kunar Province, Afghanistan. At least 28 Pakistani paramilitary soldiers were killed in two days of fighting there, while at least 45 Taliban fighters were killed.

Pakistan lodged a protest with the Afghan government after the attack in Upper Dir. □

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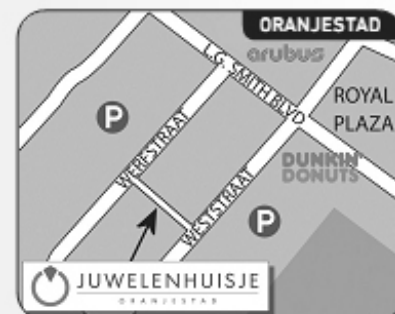
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## World Briefs

### Via Internet testimony:

### Mexican parents recoup kids

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Two girls ages 4 and 8 have been reunited in Mexico with their deported migrant parents after the couple was allowed to offer testimony in custody hearings in Pennsylvania via Internet phone-and-image conferencing. U.S. and Mexican lawyers for the couple say it is the first time they know of that a U.S. court has allowed testimony in a custody case to be made over the Web. Lawyer Gustavo Garcia says the cost of renting professional video conferencing facilities is often prohibitive for parents deported from the U.S. Such parents often can't get visas to testify in U.S. courts. The daughters of Alfonso Mejia and Margarita Almaraz returned to Mexico City on Monday on a flight from the United States. □

### Romanians find missile warheads

**BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)** — Dozens of small, old rocket warheads stolen from a train carrying military equipment were found Monday stashed near a railway station in a village of Romania, authorities said.

When the theft was discovered over the weekend, authorities promised the 64 warheads posed no danger to the public because the warheads, or fuses, were being transported separately from the rockets. The warheads were found intact in four boxes near the railway station in the village of Chitila, just north of Bucharest, Marius Militaru, a spokesman for the interior ministry, told Antena 3 broadcaster. He declined to provide further details, citing an ongoing investigation. Bulgaria's Economy Ministry identified the warheads as belonging to 122mm (4.8-inch) diameter Grad rockets, which are typically fired from vehicle-mounted multiple-rocket launchers. □

### State media:

### 4 die in violence in China

**BEIJING (AP)** — More than four people, including a policeman, were killed Monday in an attack on a police station in far western China, state media reported. No motive was cited, but the Xinjiang region has been the scene of past ethnic conflict. The deaths happened after "several thugs" invaded a police station in Hotan, took hostages and started a fire, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Xinhua did not give a reason for the attack. But Xinjiang has been beset by ethnic conflict and a sometimes-violent separatist movement by Uighurs (pronounced WEE-gurs), a largely Muslim ethnic group that sees Xinjiang as its homeland. Many Uighurs resent the Han Chinese majority as interlopers. An overseas Uighur activist group said Monday's violence stemmed from a land protest earlier in the day that ended in clashes between demonstrators and police. □

### Egypt names new council head

**CAIRO (AP)** — Egypt's military rulers commissioned a top judge Monday to form an electoral commission, starting the process of organizing the country's first elections after the popular uprising that ousted authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak. The military decree effectively sets a time-frame for the first parliamentary elections in Egypt's transition to democracy. The commission begins work on Sept. 18, with the vote expected to follow roughly two months later, according to human rights lawyers. The decree, reported by the state news agency, did not set an exact date. The decision settles a major dispute among various political factions over whether elections should come before or after the writing of a constitution. Many liberals fear well-organized Islamist groups are poised to win big in parliament and hence influence the writing of the country's post-revolution constitution. □

## 8 injured as stage falls at Ottawa Bluesfest

**CHARMAINE NORONHA**  
**Associated Press**

**TORONTO (AP)** — The organizer of an Ottawa music festival where the stage collapsed during a sudden storm, scurrying thousands of fans who were watching the band Cheap Trick, called the accident "a freak situation" at a press conference Monday. Organizers had been monitoring the weather moments before a violent summer gale toppled the main stage at the Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest on Sunday night, said Mark Monahan, the festival's executive director. Five people were hospitalized for their injuries but were later released, Monahan said. The band's truck driver was among the injured. Some concertgoers said it was a miracle that nobody died.

"Honestly, what we've been told, it was a very unusual situation. The fact that (the storm) brought that stage down and nothing else came down in the park is just a freak situation," Monahan said.

Cheap Trick had been playing for about 20 minutes when howling winds and storm suddenly clouds blew in. The band quickly left as the stage began to collapse, sending about 10,000 fans scrambling to make their way to safety. "Everyone is shaken up but band and crew are all fine," the band, which formed in the 1970s and is best known for the hits "Surrender" and "I Want You to Want Me," said in a message posted on Facebook. "Cheap Trick hopes that everyone who attended the show is also ok."

Cheap Trick lead singer Robin Zander wrote on Facebook: "Fortunately the band and crew are all lucky to be alive and we'll see you down the road. And all the best to our truck driver Sandy." Concertgoer Pamela Cogan, a respiratory therapist, was at the foot of the stage and jumped the barricades after the collapse to see if anyone required assistance. She said it was a "miracle" that nobody died.

"It was like a scene out of

'Armageddon.' Right before the collapse, it was sunny and lovely, and then moments later, dark clouds appeared, and the atmosphere changed. A gust of wind blew confetti from the ground up, the drapes blew inwards, the stage

alive," said the 47-year-old veteran Bluesfest attendee, who watched the show with her son and his friends. Cheap Trick manager Dave Frey, who was on stage seconds before the collapse, told Rolling Stone magazine that the driver's



**Police, security and Bluesfest personnel rush onto the wreckage of the main stage at the Ottawa Bluesfest in Ottawa, Ontario on Sunday July 17, 2011. The main stage at Ottawa Bluesfest collapsed during a severe thunderstorm that sent thousands of people running for cover.**

(AP Photo/The Canadian Press, Adam Dietrich)

collapsed, and someone yelled, 'Get off,'" Cogan said.

She said she was shocked when the only injured person she could find was the truck driver behind the stage.

"It's a miracle, even the way the stage fell back and not forward onto the people at the show. There were fans sitting on the stage right behind the rigging. I have no idea how everyone made it out

leg was broken and the band lost all of its equipment.

Video posted on YouTube within minutes of the storm's passing showed a collapsed stage that had been propelled backward before crumpling and damaging a tractor-trailer truck parked behind it. Twisted shards of metal jutted out from the stage, which stood several stories tall before it was destroyed. □

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matinee: 1:15  
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# For three couples, the long wait is over

**ASHLEY PARKER**

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On Sunday, New York becomes the sixth and largest state with legalized same-sex marriage. Over the ensuing weeks and months, gay and lesbian couples from around the state, and beyond, are expected to descend on city and town clerks' offices seeking marriage licenses, with the legal recognition, and rights, that marriage brings. Here are the stories of three same-sex couples who plan to marry in New York. More photographs are at [nytimes.com/nyregion](http://nytimes.com/nyregion). Ralph Goneau, 79, and Richard Wilhelm, 87, Woodstock Together 41 years Ten years ago, when some states began moving toward legalizing same-sex marriage, Ralph Goneau called the Woodstock town clerk with a request: If same-sex marriage ever became legal in New York, he and his longtime partner, Richard Wilhelm, wanted to be first in line.

On Sunday, Goneau and Wilhelm will head to the town clerk's office to pick up their long-awaited marriage license.

In the 41 years since they

by rail – as far north as Alaska, as far south as Mexico – and said their vows aboard the Queen Mary 2, out on the Atlantic Ocean. But for most of their time together,

ping to his knees in their living room. Wilhelm had only one request: to keep the entire event low key. "I don't know what I will be required to wear; maybe I'll just come out in shorts," Wilhelm said, laughing. "I'll be glad when it's over, when they forget all about it."

Kitty Lambert, 54, and Cheryle Rudd, 53

Buffalo

Together 11 years

It took two cheating girlfriends and a mouthful of Diet Pepsi to bring Kitty Lambert and Cheryle Rudd together. Lambert and Rudd were colleagues at a paper company in Arizona when they found out that their girlfriends were cheating on them – with each

between them have five children and 12 grandchildren, moved to western New York after falling in love with the area on a weekend trip in 2003. It was in Buffalo that they founded OUTspoken for Equality, a gay-rights organization, which now claims 1,800 members. The group is credited with helping persuade state Sen. Mark Grisanti, R-Buffalo, to vote in favor of the same-sex marriage bill. In February 2010, in a protest pegged to Valentine's Day, the two women applied for a marriage license in Buffalo. When they were rejected, Lambert asked for male volunteers in the crowd to step forward, and she ended up getting



**Kitty Lambert, 54, right, tastes wine with her future wife Cheryle Rudd, 53, at Freedom Run Vineyards in Buffalo, N.Y., July 17, 2011. The couple has been together for 11 years and plan to be the first same-sex couple in the state to get married on Sunday, when they plan to take their vows just after midnight at Niagara Falls.**

(Michelle V. Agins/The New York Times)

started dating, the two men, both railroad enthusiasts, have traveled more than 30,000 miles together

they never talked seriously about marriage.

"It was just an inconceivable thing," Goneau said. Goneau, who worked in retail and owned a hardware store in town for 10 years, and Wilhelm, who was part of a CBS camera crew, first met in a gay bar in Woodstock, where Wilhelm owned a weekend house. They are old enough to recall slurs hurled at gay men and to have confronted the legal issues that accompany aging with a partner who is not a spouse.

"I had an experience of not being able to visit him in a Westchester hospital because I was not a relative," Goneau said. When Albany approved same-sex marriage in June, Goneau proposed to Wilhelm the next morning, dropping



**Richard Wilhelm, 87, right, and Ralph Goneau, 79, who have been a couple for 41 years, at home in Woodstock, N.Y., July 13, 2011. When New York approved same-sex marriage in June, Goneau proposed to Wilhelm the next morning, dropping to one knee in their living room.**

(Michelle V. Agins/The New York Times)

other. They decided to go out for drinks to commiserate, and they made each other laugh so hard that Lambert spewed soda all over Rudd. "I thought it was hilarious," said Rudd, who works at a pasta factory. "I knew I'd come back for more." The women, who

a marriage license with a 22-year-old gay man.

"I was trying to make the point that I can get a marriage license with a complete and total stranger, the age of one of my grandchildren, who knows nothing about me," Lambert said. □

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At the official  
Kick Off Event  
at Surfside

## Art Rules Aruba is launched



Oranjestad – This year's edition of Art Rules Aruba, a summer program for teens initiated in 2010 by talented twins Ira-Sharay Kip and Ayra-Anandra Kip, got off the ground on Friday at a press conference and party with more than 200 participants in attendance. Participants were welcomed on behalf of the Pancake Gallery Foundation – Ira & Ayra's production company – and on behalf of the program's sponsors: RBTT Bank, Aruba's Department of Culture, AAA and the Aruba Airport Authority, and the employees of the Valero Oil Refinery.

Ira & Ayra started the summer program last year as a personal odyssey, designed to provide teens on vacation with an artistic challenge and a learning opportunity. They attracted artists from around the globe to come to Aruba and give workshops in a variety of disciplines including Rap & Poetry, Dance, Fashion Design, Photography, Film and this year also Painting.

Continued on Page 14

## Theater Show about Prince Claus comes to Aruba

**ORANJESTAD** - The Julius Leeft! Foundation (Julius Lives!) brings the musical about Prince Claus to Aruba. Claus von Amsberg, deceased in 2002, was the husband of Queen Beatrix and Prince of the Netherlands.

As part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Prince Claus was an important part of our heritage and therefore Aruba is proud to welcome the cast, crew and production of theater show Claus.

After the successful one time show in Royal Theatre Carré, the Netherlands, the Julius Leeft! Foundation decided to bring the show about the remarkable prince to Aruba. The Dutch cast and crew, combined with local talents will perform from July 18th till July 20th.

John Leerdam, initiator of the Julius Leeft! Foundation and director of theater show Claus created the show in 2009.

The cast included politi-

cians, celebrities and professional artists. Queen Beatrix and her son Prince Constantijn and Princess Laurentien were present at this première.

The show depicts the life of Prince Claus, but also narrates about humanity, hope, disappointments and the search for love.

The story is about the prince's relationship with Africa, the Dutch Antilles and Suriname and indeed about his relationship with Queen Beatrix.

Aruba invited the Dutch cast and crew to join as part of the celebrations for the 25th anniversary of Aruba's Status Aparte.

In addition to the theater show, the Julius Leeft! Foundation is also organizing a benefit concert. The main aim of the concert is to raise money for projects which educate the youth on culture.

Location: Cas di Cultura.

Dates:

July 18th Benefit Concert



July 19th Première theater show Claus

July 20th Theater show Claus

### Cast:

Thom Hoffman as Claus – famous Dutch actor

Izaline Calister – Antillian singer, composer and lyricist

Paulette Smit as princess

Maxima – Dutch actress Edwin Abath – representative of the minister of Aruba in the Netherlands

Chris Lejuez – lawyer Lincoln Gomez – lawyer Mildred Schwengle – lawyer

Winfried Kloes – lawyer Arthur Dowers – Minister of Justice & Education

And more ☐

## Anniversaries celebrated at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club



**Eagle Beach** – An uplifting and spirited gathering at La Cabana Beach & Racquet

Club celebrated the anniversaries of associates during the second quarter of

the year, 2011.

Distinguished associates and department heads

met over delicious lunch at the Conference Room for the recognition of long-term careers and commitments, highlighting the anniversary celebration.

Celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the resort, dedicated and loyal associates Maria Koolman, Food & Beverage, Efigenio Dania, Engineering, and Mirian Courtar, Yvonne Duncan, and Mauro Jones, all three from the Housekeeping Department. Celebrating her 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary Yseline Lynch, Front Office, and her 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Ena Vrolijk, Executive Office.

Pictured here, at the recognition luncheon, the long-term associates of La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club. ☐



# Art Rules Aruba is launched



**Continued from Page 13**

The RBTT Bank became the main sponsor in 2011, providing financial support and scholarships. For this year's edition of Art Rules Aruba the Department of Culture is also supporting the creation of a giant mural, under the artistic direction of painter Vanessa Paulina, as a way for youth to express itself. The

mural is dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Status Aparte, the island's independent status within the Dutch kingdom. The mural will adorn San Nicholas, and the town's main bust station. The project is also supported by The Aruban Way, a charity affiliated with the Valero Oil Refinery and by the San Nicholas Business Association. During the spirited and casual Kick Off



Event, representatives of the refinery's employees under the slogan the Aruba Way Mobilizing the Caring & Sharing Spirit of Aruba, handed an extra generous check to the Pancake Foundation, providing the last necessary funds for the sustain of the ambitious two-week project. During the Kick Off Event students received their instructions from bus schedules, to curriculums. The fun event offered the opportunity to personally meet the Art Rules Aruba selected students, Sponsors and Partners and of course the Art Rules Aruba team of



Art Directors and this year's Teachers of the Program. The Pancake Gallery Foundation, Phone: +297 5665541, [info@pancakegallery.com](mailto:info@pancakegallery.com), [www.artrules-aruba.com](http://www.artrules-aruba.com)





# Playa Linda celebrates Mid-Year Successes



Summer is a time of celebration at the Playa Linda Beach Resort, where a mid-year evaluation of resort goals traditionally results in a special show of appreciation for the staff. Employees of this popular timeshare resort recently gathered at Moomba Beach to enjoy a well-deserved toast to their accomplishments, which includes their contributions to the smooth implementa-

tion of a 7M renovation currently ongoing at the resort. It has been a busy year at the Playa Linda, with the renovation touching every inch of the resort, from each individual unit to the public areas. The progress of the project has been running like clockwork, with work carried out without seriously impacting the satisfaction level of guests. Renovation work, such as



painting, the installation of a state-of-the-art smoke and gas alarm system and laying of new tiles and the installation of new vanities, took place while the resort maintains an 85% average occupancy.

"We have achieved a lot this past year and in the last six months in particular, thanks to the excellent work of the entire staff working as a team. Not only has the renovation been carried out as planned, and we are on track to realize a completely new resort by the end of this year, but we have also simultaneously carried out extensive training in fire safety and hurricane preparedness," comments Playa Linda's General Manager Jan van Nes. "With each assignment, our team has risen to each challenge, and has accomplished a great deal, and deserves recognition for their invaluable contributions."

This year's mid-year party included a beach tennis event as well as a "hersengymnastiek" game in which employees matched wits. Playa Linda employees also enjoyed a succulent BBQ meal while listening to the tunes provided by a lively DJ.

Playa Linda first opened its doors in 1983, and offers 213 units, in several unit configurations, which sleep from four to eight occupants. Playa Linda Beach Resort was the first resort on Palm Beach to qualify as as

Green Globe and ISO 1400 resort. Alongside it many achievements, the Playa Linda regularly monitors the

well-being of its employees, and boasts one of the lowest sickness and turnover rates in the industry. □



## The Center of Aruba has Shifted!



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from 4:00pm to 6:00pm

### **After Dinner CASH DRAWS**

on slots Tuesday through Friday  
from 8:00pm to 10:00pm

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**Aura Casino is located in the Occidental Grand Aruba  
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At Aruba's Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts

# The "Perfect Location" For Mexican Couple to Wed



**EAGLE BEACH** – Five family members stood witness as Ana and James Graham recently exchanged wedding vows on the powder-white sands of Eagle Beach and Bucuti & Tara Beach

Resorts. Prior to their romantic beachfront ceremony, the couple officially married in Oranjestad's historic Civil House.

James is originally from Luxembourg and Ana is from

Tampico, Mexico. The couple currently lives in Monterrey, Mexico where both work as lawyers.

"On a Sunday morning James left the house without telling me anything and

then he came back with a ring and asked me to marry him," said new bride Ana Graham on her engagement to new husband James.

A finicky groom, James searched the internet endlessly trying to find the perfect location for their destination wedding. James and Ana decided on Aruba and Bucuti for several reasons.

"Aruba was the perfect location not only because of the island's beauty but also because unlike many islands in the Caribbean, Aruba does not have strict residency conditions in order to legally marry on island," said the newlyweds. "Also, the fact that the island is located outside the hurricane belt was a ma-

major plus when choosing our ideal location. Also, we were so impressed with the beautiful wedding pictures we saw in addition to the resort's adults-only policy; it was evident that Bucuti was the perfect resort for our destination wedding."

When asked about what they liked best about their wedding, Mr. and Mrs. Graham stated, "We really enjoyed the breathtaking beach ceremony and the level of customer service we received from Bucuti's multi-lingual staff members." James and Ana celebrated their honeymoon in one of Bucuti's luxurious Tara Penthouse Suites with panoramic views of the beautiful Eagle Beach.

Photo credit: Kenneth Theysen

## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

**Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"**



**ORANJESTAD** - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean.

What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft.

Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

12 noon and from 1 pm to 5pm.

### Catch your own dinner

A charter includes:

captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com).

### Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 3-course menu for just \$24.

### Rates:

\$360 - 1/2 day

\$720- full day  
Rates per boat  
Max. 6 people

### Driftwood Restaurant

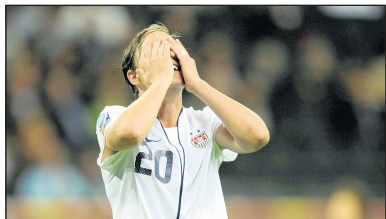
Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat 12, Downtown Oranjestad  
Tel: (297) 583 2515

[www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com)

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.

# Read ARUBA TODAY every day





# U.S. can't pull off one last thriller at World Cup

United States' Abby Wambach reacts during the final match between Japan and the United States at the Women's Soccer World Cup in Frankfurt, Germany, Sunday, July 17, 2011.

Associated Press  
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## SPORTS Aruba TODAY

### AP sources: Club execs to be briefed if deal OK'd

By BARRY WILNER  
HOWARD FENDRICH  
AP Pro Football Writers |

Two people familiar with talks to end the NFL lock-out tell The Associated Press that if an agreement is ratified by Thursday, team executives will be briefed starting that day on how the deal's terms affect league business.

The people said the league's 32 clubs were told Monday that topics would include the rookie salary system and guidelines for player transactions. They spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the process is supposed to remain confidential.

Owners are scheduled to hold a special meeting in Atlanta on Thursday, when they could ratify a new labor contract — if one is reached by then. Club executives would be briefed in Atlanta on Thursday and Friday. Any tentative agreement also must be approved by players, including star quarterbacks Tom Brady, Peyton Manning and Drew Brees and the other plaintiffs in a federal antitrust suit against the league.

Members of the NFL Players Association's executive committee and representatives of every team were heading to Washington by Wednesday, in preparation for a possible vote.

NFLPA spokesman George Atallah said the players would be gathering "with the hope they have something to look at, and with the hope we can move forward on this."

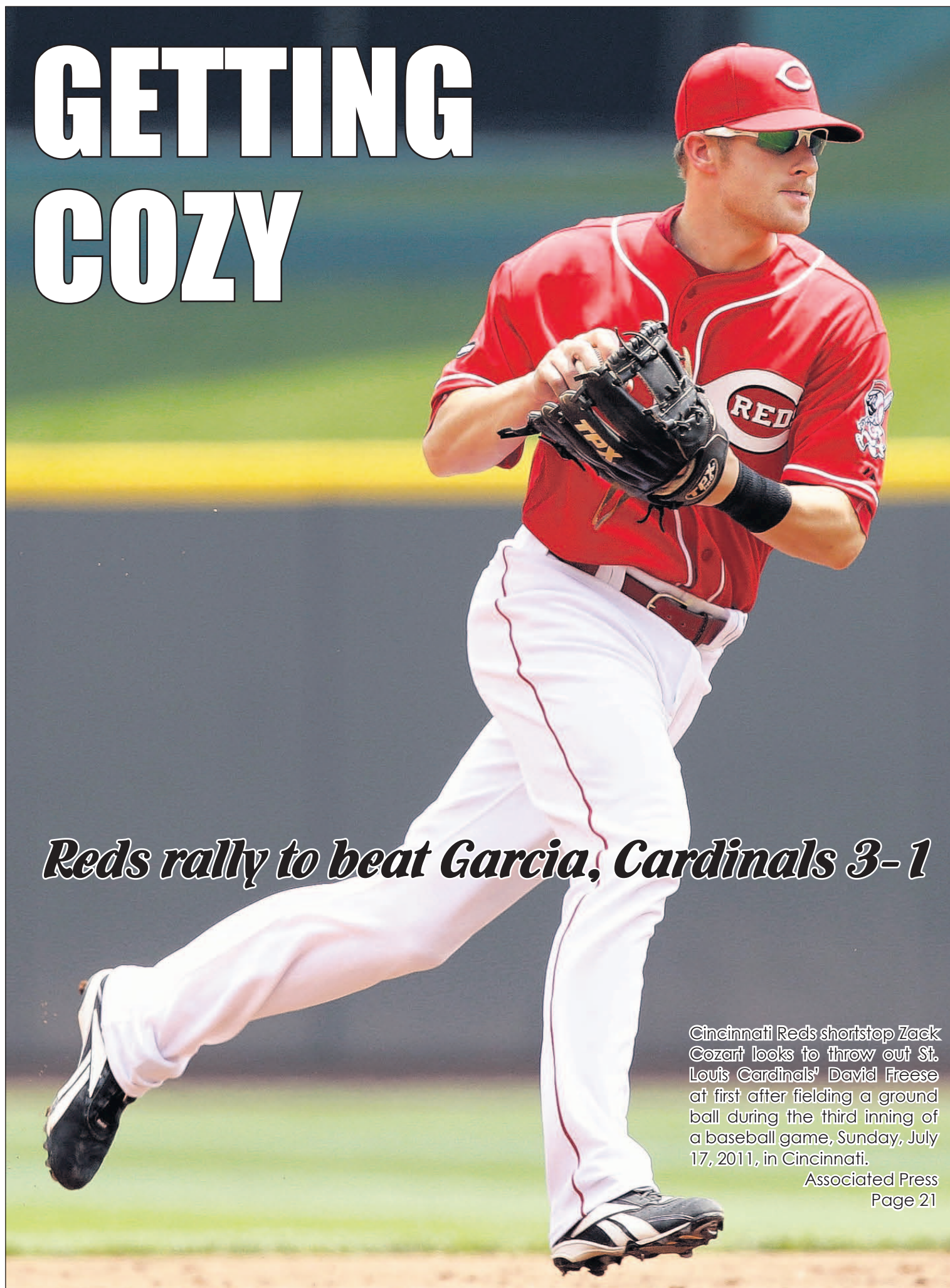
Continued on page 19

# GETTING COZY

## *Reds rally to beat Garcia, Cardinals 3-1*

Cincinnati Reds shortstop Zack Cozart looks to throw out St. Louis Cardinals' David Freese at first after fielding a ground ball during the third inning of a baseball game, Sunday, July 17, 2011, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press  
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# U.S. can't pull off 1 last thriller at World Cup

**NANCY ARMOUR**  
AP National Writer  
**FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)**

— The Americans stood on the field, watching in stunned silence as Japan celebrated.

This, they were certain, was their World Cup to win. Through every comeback, to every last second, they never doubted that, somehow, they would emerge as champions.

But the resilience that had carried them so far and captivated their country disappeared when they needed it most. Shannon Boxx, Carli Lloyd and Tobin Heath all failed to convert penalties as Japan stunned the Americans 3-1 in a shootout after the U.S. twice conceded a lead.

"There are really no words," Abby Wambach said. "We were so close."

Wambach, whose vital contribution against Brazil and France was the reason the Americans were in the final, scored from another header in the 104th minute. But in the 117th, five minutes before extra time was to expire, Homare Sawa flicked in a corner kick to equalize and send it to penalties. It was the fifth goal of the tournament for the 32-year-old, playing in her fifth World Cup.

The Americans had beaten Brazil on penalties in a quarterfinal thriller, but they didn't have the same touch Sunday.

"It's hard to do two rounds of penalties," Wambach said. "The keeper, in



United States players stand on the pitch after their team lost the final match between Japan and the United States at the Women's Soccer World Cup in Frankfurt, Germany, Sunday, July 17, 2011.

Associated Press

a way, knows which way we're going to go."

Though the U.S. is the two-time defending Olympic champion, it has been 12 years since that watershed team in 1999 won the World Cup. This squad was certain it could turn it around.

It was not a smooth ride. There was an upset in regional qualifying by Mexico, a team that had not beaten its neighbors to the north in its first 25 tries, forcing the two-time champs to beat Italy in a playoff to get the very last spot in Germany. They dropped their first game of the year, to Sweden, and lost to England for the first time in 22 years — so long ago Alex Morgan hadn't even been born yet.

They won their first two games in Germany easily — despite squandering dozens of chances. Then they lost to Sweden, their first defeat in group play at the World Cup.

But they rallied with one of the most riveting finishes ever in a World Cup game — men's or women's — against Brazil in the quarterfinals. Down a player for almost an hour and on the verge of making their earliest exit ever from a major tournament, Wambach's magnificent, leaping header in the 122nd minute tied the game.

They scratched out another gritty win against France to earn a spot in the finals.

"It's devastating," Megan

Rapinoe said. "Just to get to the final and not win it is devastating."

Even when they went to penalty kicks, the Americans still never doubted themselves.

"This is sports. This is the way it goes," Wambach said. "Unfortunately, it didn't go our way tonight. All of us are devastated."

But the Americans lost this game as much as Japan won it. Their struggles to finish, a problem all year, cost them big.

"I don't blame anybody," Wambach said. "We had so many chances tonight."

The Americans finished the first half with a 12-5 shot advantage but had just

one attempt on target. Lauren Cheney came up short three times, Wambach shook the crossbar and Rapinoe banged one off the near post. The Americans finally broke through in the second half, with Morgan scoring her second goal of the tournament in the 69th.

But with just nine minutes or so before they could claim the title, the Americans gifted Japan a goal. Rachel Buehler tied to clear the ball right in front of the goal and knocked it to Ali Krieger, who botched her clearance, too. The ball fell to Aya Miyama, who poked it in from five yards to tie it.

"There is such a little difference between success and not success," U.S. coach Pia Sundhage said. "Of course, it's disappointing."

Americans had rallied around this team like no other since 1999, impressed by its grit and charmed by its copurage. Hollywood celebrities, fellow pro athletes and people who don't care about any sport, let alone soccer, adopted the players. Even President Barack Obama was a fan, taking to Twitter himself on Sunday morning to wish the team well.

"Sorry I can't be there to see you play, but I'll be cheering you on from here. Let's go. — BO."

The Empire State Building was bathed in red, white and blue this weekend, along with Japan's colors — red and white. □



In this Dec 17, 2010 file photo Ranomi Kromowidjojo from the Netherlands shows off her gold medal after winning the Women's 100m freestyle final at the FINA Short Course Swimming World Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Friday, Dec. 17, 2010.

Associated Press

## Dutch sprinters could dominate swim worlds

**ANDREW DAMPF**  
AP Sports Writer

**SHANGHAI (AP)** — While standout Brazilian sprinter Cesar Cielo waits for his status to be determined by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, one thing is certain for the women's signature events at the world swimming championships: the Dutch pose a serious threat.

Ranomi Kromowidjojo, who has overcome a recent serious bout of meningitis, is among the favorites next week for the 50- and 100-meter freestyle races and along with Frederike Heemskerk, Inge Dekker and Marleen Velduis, the Flying Dutchwomen are undoubtedly the team to beat in the 400 freestyle relay.

The same four women have won the relay at the last two major international meets — the 2008 Beijing Olympics and 2009 worlds

in Rome — when they also set the current world record.

They're the latest in a long line of Dutch sprinting standouts, starting with the likes of Pieter van den Hoogenband and Inge de Bruijn — who won a combined 15 Olympic medals at the 2000 Sydney and 2004 Athens Games.

"We're long and tall people — maybe that's good for sprinting freestyle," Veldhuis said.

The historic legacy also helps.

"As a little child I was sitting in front of the TV watching Pieter and Inge de Bruijn," Kromowidjojo said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Now they're retired, but a few years ago I was training with them, so it was really nice and awesome to swim with your idols." □



# No clear Tour favorite heading into Alps

**JEROME PUGMIRE**

**AP Sports Writer**

**MONTPELLIER, France (AP)**

— With the Tour de France heading toward its decisive stages, there is still no favorite in a wide open race that is fueling the passions of French fans who hope Thomas Voeckler holds his lead against all odds.

When racing resumes Tuesday after a rest day, Voeckler will open the 16th stage nearly two minutes ahead of Frank Schleck — supposedly a weaker rider than his younger brother, Andy — and four minutes ahead of three-time champion Alberto Contador.

Voeckler remains fiercely adamant he has a “zero percent chance” to become the first French Tour winner since Bernard Hinault in 1985, while doubts persist about Contador’s troublesome right knee. Even the Schleck brothers seem undecided who is No. 1 on their team, while two-time runner-up Cadel Evans is conspicuously staying out of the limelight.

All of this means that it was increasingly hard to pick a favorite heading into the last week of the Tour.

“It’s still a bit strange because I think people still look at the Schleck broth-

ers as favorites, but they’re two minutes down,” Evans said Sunday after British sprinter Mark Cavendish won the 15th stage. “So it’s still about Voeckler for now. We’ve got some more hills, some more racing and a time trial to go.”

Evans is third overall, 2:06 behind Voeckler, 17 seconds behind second-place Frank Schleck, nine seconds ahead of Andy Schleck — the runner-up to Contador in the last two Tours — and 1:54 ahead of Contador.

“Voeckler is in incredible form,” Contador said. “He has a big lead, it will be hard to make that up.”

None of the Tour contenders managed to cut loose in the three Pyrenean mountain stages last week, and someone has to make a big move in three punishing Alpine stages that loom. “I don’t want to arrive in Paris with regrets,” Contador said after Cavendish raced to his fourth stage victory of the race — and 19th overall in the Tour — by beating American sprinter Tyler Farrar on a 119.6-mile stage from Limoux to Montpellier.

There should be plenty of opportunities for Contador to attack the 32-year-old Voeckler in the punishing



**A ray of sunlight hits overall leader Thomas Voeckler of France as he rides in the pack during the 15th stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 120 miles starting in Limoux and finishing in Montpellier, southern France, Sunday July 17, 2011.**

**Associated Press**

Alps later this week. But if the Frenchman does not crack, then the race is going to be decided on the penultimate stage time trial. Not that cycling fans are complaining.

Voeckler’s unexpected rise to the top adds an extra layer of intrigue because it has been 14 years since a Frenchman even got on the podium — let alone

won the race. Voeckler has also become an extra, surprise, and welcome contender.

Last year’s Tour was a duel between Contador and Schleck, the year before it was Contador beating Schleck again, with seven-time champion Lance Armstrong completing the podium. No great surprises there, even with Arm-

strong’s hyped return.

This year, there are six possible contenders, with Italian rider Ivan Basso — third overall in 2004 and second in 2005 behind Armstrong — sitting 44 seconds ahead of Contador.

On Tuesday, the riders will head toward the Alps on a medium mountain stage before the first of three high mountain stages. □



**NFL Players Association spokesman George Atallah, right, pauses as he speaks to media in Washington, Monday, July 18, 2011, as talks to end the NFL lockout continued. Carl Francis also with the NFL Players Association is at left.**

**Associated Press**

“The lawyers are hard at work in New York with the language and some of the things we agreed to last week,” Atallah said in Washington. “As for face-to-face meetings between the principals, we will do that as necessary.”

One issue standing in the way of a resolution, according to one person from each side of the dispute who also spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity: Players want owners to turn over \$320 million in benefits that weren’t paid during the 2010 season. Because there was no salary cap that season, the old collective bargaining agreement said NFL teams were not required to pay those benefits.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and NFL-PA head DeMaurice Smith spoke to each other

on the telephone Monday and were planning to keep in regular contact.

At federal court in Minnesota, where the players’ antitrust suit is pending, their lawyers filed a motion asking for a summary judgment that the lockout is illegal and that players are entitled to damages. The NFL, meanwhile, asked the court for a week’s extension to file their formal response to the lawsuit; the original deadline was Monday.

Those filings were necessary, procedural moves — ones that would be rendered moot if an agreement is reached before the Aug. 29 hearing date in Minnesota.

Atallah called the players’ filing “an obligation to protect the members of the class.”

“Obviously, if we come to a settlement, it all can be

lifted at any time,” he said. Players and owners have come up with the framework of an agreement that resolves most of their differences.

The areas they’ve figured out include:

— how the more than \$9 billion in annual league revenues will be divided, with somewhere from 46.5 to 48.5 percent going to players, depending on how much the total take from TV contracts and other sources rises or falls;

— a structure for rookie contracts that will rein in soaring salaries for high first-round draft picks;

— free agency rules that allow most four-year veterans to negotiate with any team; — a cap of about \$120 million per team for player salaries in 2011, with about another \$20 million per team in benefits. □

**Continued from page 17**

Lawyers for the NFLPA and owners met Monday at a Manhattan law firm to work on ending the four-

month lockout, the sport’s first work stoppage since 1987. They were joined in the afternoon by the court-appointed mediator, U.S. Magistrate Judge Arthur Boylan.



## WNBA Roundup

# McCray's career-best 22 lifts Sun over Fever

**UNCASVILLE, Connecticut (AP)** — Rookie Danielle McCray scored a career-high 22 points to help the Connecticut Sun beat the Indiana Fever 76-71 in the WNBA on Sunday.

Tina Charles added 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Sun (8-5) who are the lone team in the Eastern Conference undefeated at home (6-0).

Tamika Catchings led Indiana (10-5) with 18 points and 14 rebounds.

Indiana trailed 72-65 with 39 seconds remaining before Jessica Davenport made two free throws. Catchings stole the ensuing inbound pass and assisted on Katie Douglas' basket to cut it to 72-69 with 34 seconds left. Connecticut guard Renee Montgomery made one of two free throws to push the Sun lead to four at 73-69. Catchings made it a two-point game with 18 seconds left on her lay-in.

Kalana Greene made one of two free throws, giving Indiana a chance, but

Catchings threw an errant pass to Douglas that went out of bounds with 7.7 seconds left.

Kara Lawson's two free throws sealed it with 6.9 seconds remaining.

### Liberty 88, Shock 57

At Newark, New Jersey, Cappie Pondexter scored 18 points and Essence Carson had 17 as New York cruised to a victory over Tulsa. Kia Vaughn had 15 points and Plenette Pier-son, back after missing one game due to a strained tendon in her left knee, added 12 points to help the Liberty (9-6) win for the seventh time in nine games.

Tiffany Jackson scored 17 points, Doneeka Lewis and rookie Liz Cabbage added 11 each for Tulsa (1-14), which lost its ninth straight. The Shock shot 34 percent (21 for 62) from the field, including 5 for 25 on 3-pointers, as Teresa Edwards fell to 0-4 since replacing Nolan Richardson as coach and general manager nine days earlier. □

## MLS Roundup

# Ruiz, Valdes score to lead Union over Revs 3-0

**FOXBOROUGH, Massachusetts (AP)** — Carlos Ruiz and Carlos Valdes scored 13 minutes apart early in the first half to lead the Philadelphia Union to a 3-0 win over the New England

Revolution in Major League Soccer on Sunday.

With the win, Philadelphia replaces New York for first place in the Eastern Conference with two matches in hand. □



New England Revolution's Rajko Lekic (10) restrains teammate Benny Feilhaber (22) after Feilhaber was issued a red card in the second half of an MLS soccer game against the Philadelphia Union in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, July 17, 2011.

Associated Press



Boston Red Sox Dustin Pedroia singles to right field sending in teammate Josh Reddick for the go ahead run during the sixteenth inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays Monday, July 18, 2011, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

# Pedroia's 16th-inning single lifts Red Sox

## AL Roundup

### ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)

— Dustin Pedroia singled with two outs in the top of the 16th inning to snap a scoreless deadlock and give the Boston Red Sox a 1-0 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays on Sunday.

Josh Beckett and five relievers combined to pitch a three-hitter for the Red Sox, who won for the eighth time in nine games, retaining a 1 1/2-game lead over the second-place New York Yankees in the American League East.

Pedroia lined a single to right field off Adam Russell (1-2), driving in Josh Reddick from third base. Reddick drew a leadoff walk, moved to second on a sacrifice bunt and to third on Marco Scutaro's infield hit.

Alfredo Aceves (5-1) pitched three scoreless innings for the win. Jonathan Papelbon worked the bottom of the 16th for his 21st

save in 22 opportunities.

### Rangers 3, Mariners 1

At Seattle, Matt Harrison allowed one run in 7 2-3 innings and Mitch Moreland hit a three-run homer as Texas beat Seattle for its 11th consecutive victory.

The Rangers' streak is baseball's best since Philadelphia won 11 in a row last September and is tied for second-best in team history. Harrison (8-7) allowed five hits, struck out four and walked one, continuing Texas' run of dominant pitching. The Rangers held Seattle to two runs over 36 innings in the four-game set. Going back to before the All-Star break, Texas has allowed just two runs in its last 47 innings.

Neftali Feliz struck out a pair in the ninth for his 20th save in 24 chances.

### Twins 4, Royals 3

At Minneapolis, Jim Thome hit his 596th career home run and Joe Nathan picked up the save for the second day in a row to lift Minne-

sota over Kansas City.

Thome's tiebreaking three-run drive off Felipe Paulino soared into the upper deck in right-center field in the sixth inning, leaving him four shy of becoming the eighth player to hit 600 home runs.

Jeff Francoeur homered and Melky Cabrera added two hits for Kansas City. Paulino (1-3) struck out eight in seven innings, yielding four runs and seven hits.

### Tigers 4, White Sox 3

At Detroit, Carlos Guillen hit a tiebreaking RBI single in Detroit's three-run sixth inning to lead Detroit past Chicago.

The Tigers came back from a 3-0 deficit and avoided a three-game sweep.

**In other AL games it was Detroit 4, Chicago White Sox 3; N.Y. Yankees 7, Toronto 2; Baltimore 8, Cleveland 3; Minnesota 4, Kansas City 3; Oakland 9, L.A. Angels 1; Texas 3, Seattle 1; and Boston 1, Tampa Bay 0, 16 innings.** □





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# Reds rally to beat Garcia, Cardinals 3-1

## NL Roundup

**CINCINNATI (AP)** — Zack Cozart hit his first major league home run on Sunday as the Cincinnati Reds used a disputed call and a pair of wild pitches by Jaime Garcia to rally for a 3-1 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals.

The defending National League Central champs got a much-needed win against Garcia (9-4), who was 5-0 in his career against them.

Cardinals shortstop Ryan Theriot was ejected while arguing a call in the sixth that set up the tying run. Garcia then threw a pair of wild pitches that let Cincinnati pull even.

Ryan Hanigan singled home the tiebreaking run an inning later, and Cozart homered in the eighth.

Homer Bailey (4-4) gave up three hits, including Lance Berkman's 25th homer, in 7 1-3 innings. Bailey got his first win since May 16.

### Phillies 8, Mets 5

New York, Michael Martinez hit a three-run shot for his first major league homer to back a steady outing by Kyle Kendrick and lead Philadelphia past New York for its seventh straight series win.

Kendrick (5-4) singled twice and scored on Martinez's drive in the fifth inning off Mike Pelfrey (5-9). Martinez, a Rule 5 pick from Washington, added a sacrifice fly in the seventh for a career-high four RBIs.

Ryan Howard hit a run-scoring single in the first and Philadelphia took two

of three from the NL East rival Mets for the fourth time this season. Jimmy Rollins had a two-run single in a three-run eighth aided by Jason Bay's error in left field and reliever Pedro Beato's three walks.

### Giants 4, Padres 3, 11 innings

At San Diego, Chris Stewart drove in the go-ahead run in the 11th inning, then pounced on a bunt moments later to start a slick double play that helped San Francisco hold off San Diego. Emmanuel Burriss, who entered as a pinch-runner in the ninth, reached on a one-out single off Chad Qualls (4-3) in the 11th. Burriss stole second and continued to third on catcher Kyle Phillips' throwing error.

With the infield in, Qualls pitched out on his first delivery to Stewart, who stayed in the game after pinch-hitting in the ninth. But on a 3-1 count, Stewart laid down a perfect bunt to easily score Burriss.

### Braves 9, Nationals 8

At Atlanta, Freddie Freeman singled home the winning run in the ninth inning following an intentional walk, giving Atlanta a victory over Washington.

Ryan Mattheus (2-1) walked pinch-hitter Brooks Conrad to start the bottom of the ninth. With two outs, Martin Prado stole second and the Nationals issued an intentional walk to Brian McCann, who hit a three-run homer in the fifth.

Freeman lined a 1-0 pitch into right field and was soon in the middle of a celebration

between first and second base after Prado scored easily.

Nationals All-Star reliever Tyler Clippard recorded five straight outs, four on strikeouts, before giving up Nate McLouth's tying homer in the eighth.

Danny Espinosa had three hits, including a two-run homer and an RBI triple for Washington.

### Brewers 4, Rockies 3

At Denver, Shaun Marcum tossed five solid innings before leaving with a strained neck as Milwaukee held off Colorado. Rickie Weeks, Casey McGehee and Nyjer Morgan had two hits each for Milwaukee. The Brewers last won back-to-back road games when they swept a four-game series in Florida from June 3-6.

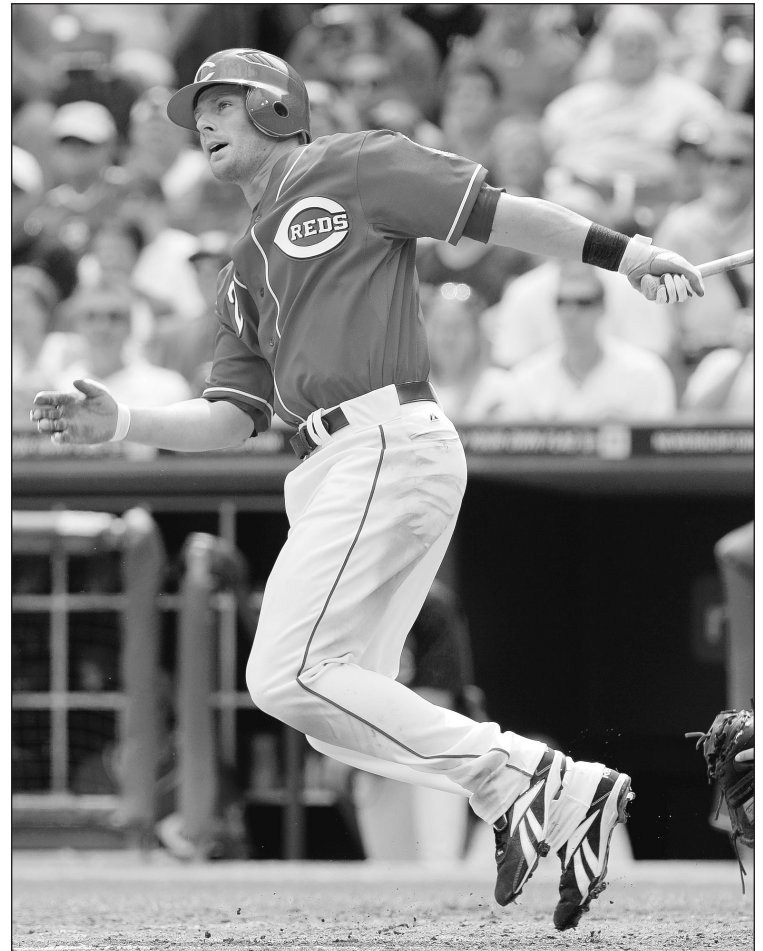
Jason Giambi homered and Seth Smith also had two hits for Colorado.

### Diamondbacks 4, Dodgers 1

At Phoenix, Daniel Hudson threw a five-hitter, belted his first big league home run and finished with three RBIs, almost single-handedly leading Arizona past Los Angeles.

Hudson (10-5) struck out three and walked none in his second complete game of the season. The right-hander also earned his first win since he beat Kansas City on June 23 and improved to 9-1 in 16 starts after beginning the season 0-4. Ryan Roberts homered for the Diamondbacks.

**In other NL games Philadelphia 8, N.Y. Mets 5; Cincinnati 3, St. Louis 1; Atlanta 9, Washington 8; Pittsburgh**



Cincinnati Reds' Zack Cozart hits a solo home run off St. Louis Cardinals relief pitcher Lance Lynn during the eighth inning of a baseball game, Sunday, July 17, 2011, in Cincinnati. It was the first major league home run for Cozart.

Associated Press

**7, Houston 5, 11 innings; San Francisco 4, San Diego Florida 7, Chicago Cubs 5; 3, 11 innings; and Arizona 4, Milwaukee 4, Colorado 3; L.A. Dodgers 1.**

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## Brain injury raises dementia risk, US study finds

**M. MARCHIONE**  
**AP Medical Writer**

**PARIS (AP)** — A large study in older veterans raises fresh concern about mild brain injuries that hundreds of thousands of troops have suffered from explosions in recent wars. Even concussions seem to raise the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease or other dementia later in life, researchers found.

Closed-head, traumatic brain injuries are a legacy of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. Body armor is helping troops survive bomb blasts, but the long-term effects of their head injuries are unknown.

Other research found a possibly high rate of mild cognitive impairment, or "pre-Alzheimer's," in some retired pro-football players, who take many hits to the head in their careers.

The studies, reported Monday at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in France, challenge the current view that only moderate or severe brain injuries predispose people to dementia.

"Even a concussion or a mild brain injury can put you at risk," said Laurie Ryan, a neuropsychiatrist who used to work at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and now oversees Alzheimer's grants at the U.S. National Institute on Aging. Don't panic — this doesn't mean that every soldier or student athlete who has had a concussion is in danger. Pro-football players and boxers "are almost a different species from us" in terms of the repeated blows they take to the head, said William Thies, the Alzheimer's Association's scientific director.

It does mean you should try to avoid one, by fall-proofing your home and wearing helmets and seat belts, he said. About 1.7 million brain injuries occur each year in the U.S.

Troops also need to prevent any further harm, said Dr. David Cifu, national director of physical medicine and rehabilitation for the Veterans Health

Administration.

"What the people who have had a head injury and read this should do is to exercise and eat right and take their medicines and take their aspirin and do meditation to reduce stress — reduce risk factors that are modifiable," he said. The new study is "a

enough cases to compare those with and without brain injuries.

Records showed that 4,902 of the veterans had suffered a traumatic brain injury, or TBI, ranging from concussions to skull fractures. Researchers don't know how long ago the injuries occurred.



**Ryan Lamke poses for a photograph in Washington on Thursday, July 14, 2011. Lamke was a corporal in the Marine Corps and served as an infantry assault man in Iraq. While in Fallujah, Iraq in 2005, he sustained traumatic brain injury, orthopedic injuries to his left arm and post traumatic stress disorder.**

(AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

great start," but limitations in its methods mean that it can't prove a brain injury-dementia link, he said. More definitive studies are starting now but will take many years to give results. The veterans study was led by Dr. Kristine Yaffe, a University of California professor and director of the Memory Disorders Clinic at the San Francisco VA Medical Center. The Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health paid for the work. "It's by far the largest" study of brain injury and dementia risk, she said. "It's never been looked at in veterans specifically."

Researchers reviewed medical records on 281,540 veterans who got care at Veterans Health Administration hospitals from 1997 to 2000 and had at least one follow-up visit from 2001-2007. All were at least 55 and none had been diagnosed with dementia when the study began. This older group was chosen because dementia grows more common with age, and researchers needed

Many participants were Vietnam War vets and their injuries were during active duty. None were due to strokes — those cases were weeded out.

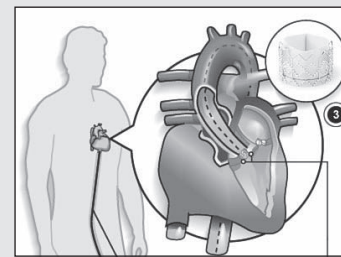
Over the next seven years, more than 15 percent of those who had suffered a brain injury were diagnosed with dementia versus only 7 percent of the others — a more than doubled risk. Severity of the injury made no difference in the odds of developing dementia.

"It's not just one kind of TBI or super-severe TBI" that poses a danger, Yaffe said. That worries Ryan Lamke, 26, a medically retired Marine who lives in suburban Washington, D.C. He suffered a traumatic brain injury from multiple blast exposures in 2005 in Iraq. "I'm diagnosed as a moderate (brain injury) but it feels like a mild," said Lamke, who relies on electronic calendars and other gadgets to stay organized. He's a student at Georgetown University and works part-time as a government relations intern for a private firm. □

## US favors innovative heart valve for the frail

**MATTHEW PERRONE**  
**AP Health Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The first artificial heart valve designed to be implanted without major surgery appears to help patients who are too frail to undergo chest-opening surgery, according to U.S. health reviewers.



The Food and Drug Administration posted its review Monday of a highly anticipated heart valve from Edwards Lifesciences that can be threaded into place through one of the body's major arteries. Cardiologists hope this approach could offer a new option for patients who are not healthy enough to undergo the more invasive open-heart surgery, which has been used to replace valves for decades.

FDA says 20 percent more patients who received Edwards' valve were living after one year than patients who received traditional medical care. However, scientists also said patients receiving the device had higher rates of stroke and bleeding in the brain.

The agency will ask a panel of heart doctors to weigh in on these risks at a meeting Wednesday, though the agency is not required to follow the group's advice.

Edwards will eventually seek FDA approval to market its valve for patients who are healthy enough for open-heart surgery. But because the valve is an experimental therapy, it was initially studied for patients with no other options.

Some 300,000 Americans have a diseased aortic heart valve, forcing the heart to work harder to squeeze blood through. Eventually the condition can lead to heart failure, blood clots and sudden death. More than 50,000 people a year undergo open-heart surgery to replace the valve, and thousands more are turned away, deemed too old or ill to survive the operation. The surgery involves sawing the patient's breastbone in half, stopping the heart, cutting out the old valve and sewing a new one into place. □

## US approves flu vaccine for coming season

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said Monday it has approved the new flu vaccine for the season beginning this year.

Each year the FDA works with other federal agencies and global health experts to design a vaccine to protect against the three viral strains most likely to cause the flu. This year's flu shot will be a duplicate of last year's because the same flu strains are still circulating.

The vaccine will be manufactured by six companies: GlaxoSmithKline, CSL Limited, ID Biomedical Corp., Medimmune Vaccines, Novartis and Sanofi.

Between 5 percent and 20 percent of Americans get the flu each year, leading to 200,000 hospitalizations, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Last year, the CDC began recommending an annual flu vaccination for everyone except babies younger than 6 months and those with unusual allergies and medical conditions. That recommendation helped boost vaccination rates, along with the appearance in 2009 of swine flu, which was more dangerous than other strains to young people.

The CDC plans to buy about 18 million of the 2011-2012 doses, primarily for government vaccine programs for children. □



## Women's World Cup final breaks Twitter record

**LONDON (AP)** — The culmination of the Women's World Cup final between Japan and the United States set a new record for tweets per second, eclipsing recent news events such as the wedding of Prince William and Kate and the death of Osama bin Laden.

Japan twice came from behind to draw 2-2 with the U.S. after extra time before winning a penalty shootout on Sunday in Frankfurt, Germany, and lifting the trophy for the first time.

The exciting climax drew 7,196 tweets per second, according to Twitter. Paraguay's penalty shootout win over Brazil in a Copa America quarterfinal later the same day came close to beating it with 7,166 and is now second on the list.

The previous record of 6,939 was set just after midnight in Japan on New Year's Day. Other spikes include bin Laden's death (5,106 per second) and the Super Bowl in February (4,064). Spain's World Cup win over the Netherlands in July 2010 managed a high of



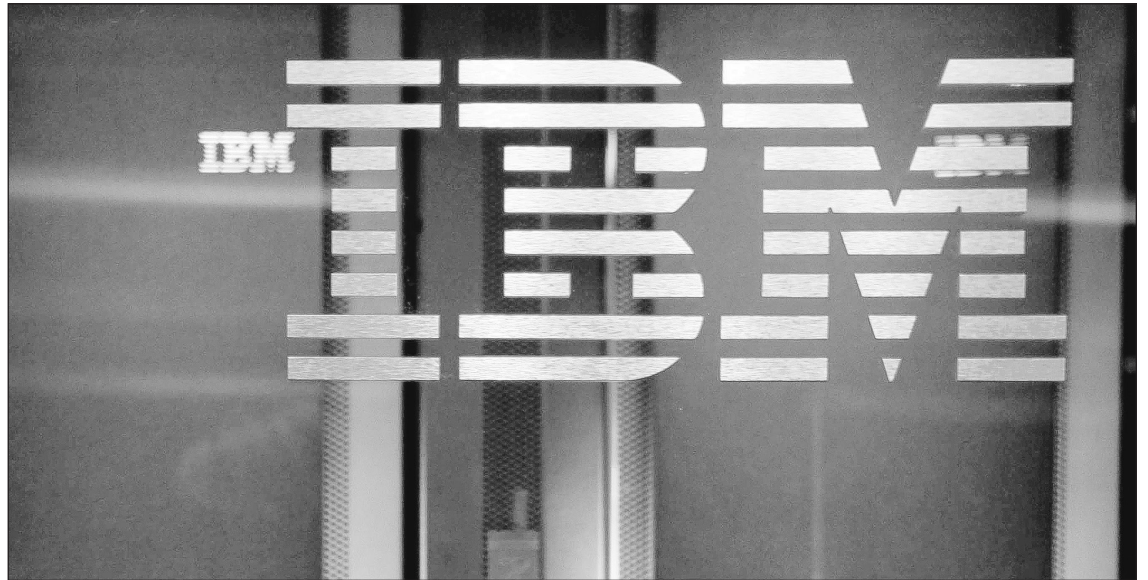
**Japan players celebrate with the trophy after winning the final match between Japan and the United States at the Women's Soccer World Cup in Frankfurt, Germany, Sunday, July 17, 2011. The Japanese women's soccer team won their first World Cup Sunday after defeating USA in a penalty shoot-out**

**Associated Press**

3,051, although the record for the tournament (3,283) was set when Japan beat Denmark in the group stage — another statistic pointing to Twitter's popularity in Japan.

Sunday's record-breaking figures reflect a sharp rise in Twitter usage. Its users now send 200 million tweets per day, compared to 10 million two years ago. □

## IBM raises guidance, beats Wall Street estimates



**In this file photo taken Jan. 13, 2011, the IBM logo is displayed. IBM Corp., reports quarterly financial results Monday, July 18, 2011, after the market close.**

**Associated Press**

**JORDAN ROBERTSON**

**AP Technology Writer**

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** —

IBM Corp. raised its income guidance for the year on Monday as earnings in the latest quarter increased 8 percent because of growth in all three of its major product categories.

The results show the strength of the 100-year-old company's efforts to link its mainframes and other computing hardware with its newer businesses, software and

services. Those two categories bring in the bulk of IBM's income. Net income was \$3.66 billion, or \$3 per share, in the second quarter compared with \$3.39 billion, or \$2.61 per share, a year ago. Excluding items, IBM earned \$3.09 per share, ahead of the \$3.02 per share analysts expected.

Revenue increased 12 percent to \$26.7 billion, ahead of the \$25.4 billion analyst estimate.

Guidance for 2011 calls for

at least \$13.25 per share, excluding items, up from the previous estimate of \$13.15 per share.

But the company's history makes it subject to high expectations. IBM has not only consistently raised its guidance, but it has also taken the rare step of setting a specific long-term profit goal — \$20 per share in operating earnings by 2015. So investors now expect steady guidance increases. □

## Cisco to lay off thousands of employees

**RACHEL METZ**

**AP Technology Writer**

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Cisco Systems Inc., the world's largest maker of computer-networking gear, is reducing its work force by about 9 percent to reduce costs and raise profits as the company tries to become more competitive.

Monday's announcement to cut 6,500 of its roughly 73,000 worldwide employees follows up on a plan disclosed in May to eliminate thousands of jobs. Two-thirds will come through layoffs, and the rest through an early-retirement plan. The company said 15 percent of employees at or above the level of vice president are being eliminated.

Cisco has long been a high-growth company, but after rebounding from the recession, its sales started stalling

about a year ago. Critics have long said that Cisco tries to compete in too many markets.

CEO John Chambers acknowledged that criticism in April and sent employees a memo vowing to take "bold steps" to narrow the company's focus.

Cisco killed off its Flip video camcorder business that month, and it reorganized its management structure a month later. Monday's cuts represent Cisco's latest attempt to simplify.

Cisco is also suffering from rising competition from companies like Juniper Networks Inc. and Hewlett-Packard Co. in the market for computer-networking equipment, including the routers and switches that direct the flow of data traffic. Cisco said the cuts will cost it \$1.3 billion in severance

and termination benefits. The company, which is based in San Jose, California, plans to take the charge over several quarters. It will take \$750 million of that, including \$500 million for the early-retirement program, during the current quarter.

Cisco will inform employees who have been cut in the U.S., Canada and some other countries during the first week of August. The rest will come later to comply with local laws.

In May, Cisco said it planned to eliminate thousands of jobs as part of a larger plan to lower annual expenses by \$1 billion, or about 6 percent. Cisco didn't say then how many jobs would be eliminated, but the number worked out to 4,000 to 5,000 if the percentage of job cuts were

similar to the reduction in expenses.

The exact number has been the subject of many analyst and published reports since then. The numbers announced Monday are much higher than the 6 percent figure.

**Cisco will inform employees who have been cut in the U.S., Canada and some other countries during the first week of August. The rest will come later to comply with local laws.**

Gleacher & Co. analyst Brian Marshall said the cuts were in line with what he was expecting.

"Obviously, while an unfortunate event it's a necessity

for Cisco to heal and get back on a competitive stature in the industry," he said. Also Monday, Cisco said it agreed to sell its Juarez, Mexico-based set-top box manufacturing plant to Foxconn Technology Group, a Taiwanese company that makes many Apple products.

The plant's 5,000 employees will join Foxconn by October. Those 5,000 are in addition to the 6,500 being cut from Cisco.

Earlier this year, Cisco cut 550 workers as part of its decision to kill Flip and reorganize other aspects of its consumer business.

Cisco's stock fell 2 cents to \$15.42 in extended trading Monday after the announcement.

The stock finished regular trading down 15 cents at \$15.44. □



# AP Exclusive: Mortgage 'robo-signing' goes on

By **MICHELLE CONLIN**  
**PALLAVI GOGOI**  
**AP Business Writers**

Mortgage industry employees are still signing documents they haven't read and using fake signatures more than eight months after big banks and mortgage companies promised to stop the illegal practices that led to a nationwide halt of home foreclosures.

County officials in at least three states say they have received thousands of mortgage documents with questionable signatures since last fall, suggesting that the practices, known collectively as "robo-signing," remain widespread in the industry.

The documents have come from several companies that process mortgage paperwork, and have been filed on behalf of several major banks. One name, "Linda Green," was signed almost two dozen different ways.

Lenders say they are working with regulators to fix the problem but cannot explain why it has persisted.

Last fall, the nation's largest banks and mortgage lenders, including JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Bank of America and an arm of Goldman Sachs, suspended foreclosures while they investigated how corners were cut to keep pace with the crush of foreclosure paperwork.

Critics say the new findings point to a systemic problem with the paperwork involved in home mortgages and titles. And they say it shows that banks and mortgage processors haven't acted aggressively enough to put an end to widespread document fraud in the mortgage industry.

"Robo-signing is not even close to over," says Curtis Hertel, the recorder of deeds in Ingham County, Mich., which includes Lansing. "It's still an epidemic."

In Essex County, Mass., the office that handles property deeds has received almost 1,300 documents since October with the signature of "Linda Green," but in 22 different handwriting styles and with many different titles.

Linda Green worked for a company called DocX that processed mortgage paperwork and was shut down in the spring of 2010. County officials say they believe Green hasn't worked in the industry since. Why her signature remains in use is not clear.

"My office is a crime scene," says John O'Brien, the registrar of deeds in Essex County, which is north of Boston and includes the city of Salem. In Guilford County, N.C., the office that records deeds says it received 456 documents with suspect signatures from Oct. 1, 2010, through June 30. The documents, mortgage assignments and certificates of satisfaction, transfer loans from one bank to another or certify a loan has been paid off.

Suspect signatures on the paperwork include 290 signed by Bryan Bly and 155 by Crystal Moore. In the mortgage investigations last fall, both admitted signing their names to mortgage documents without having read them. Neither was charged with a crime.

cs' name did not come up in last year's investigations, but county officials across Michigan believe his name is being robo-signed.

O'Brien caused a stir in June at a national convention of county clerks by presenting his findings and encouraging his counterparts to investigate continued robo-signing.

The nation's foreclosure machine almost came to a standstill when the nation's largest banks suspended foreclosures last fall. Part of the problem, banks contended, was that foreclosures became so rampant in 2009 and 2010 that they were overwhelmed with paperwork.

The banks reviewed thousands of foreclosure filings, and where they found problems, they submitted new paperwork to courts handling the cases, with signatures they said were valid. The banks slowly started to resume foreclosures this winter and spring.

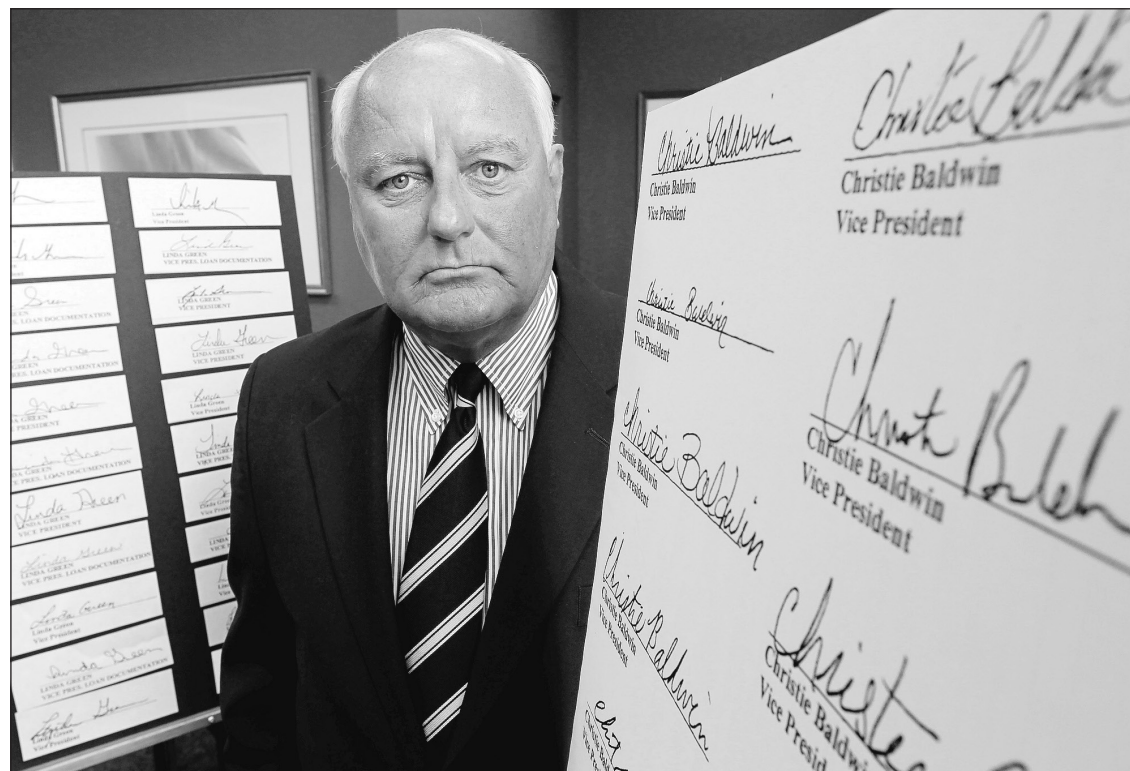
The 14 biggest U.S. banks reached a settlement with federal regulators in April in which they promised to clean up their mistakes and pay restitution to homeowners who had been wrongly

foreclosed upon. The full amount of the settlement has not been determined. But it will not involve independent mortgage processing firms, the companies that some banks use to handle and file paperwork for mortgages.

So far, no individuals, lenders or paperwork processors have been charged with a crime over the robo-signed signatures found on documents last year. Critics such as April Charney, a Florida homeowner and defense lawyer, called the settlement a farce because no real punishment was meted out, making it easy for lenders and mortgage processors to continue the practice of robo-signing.

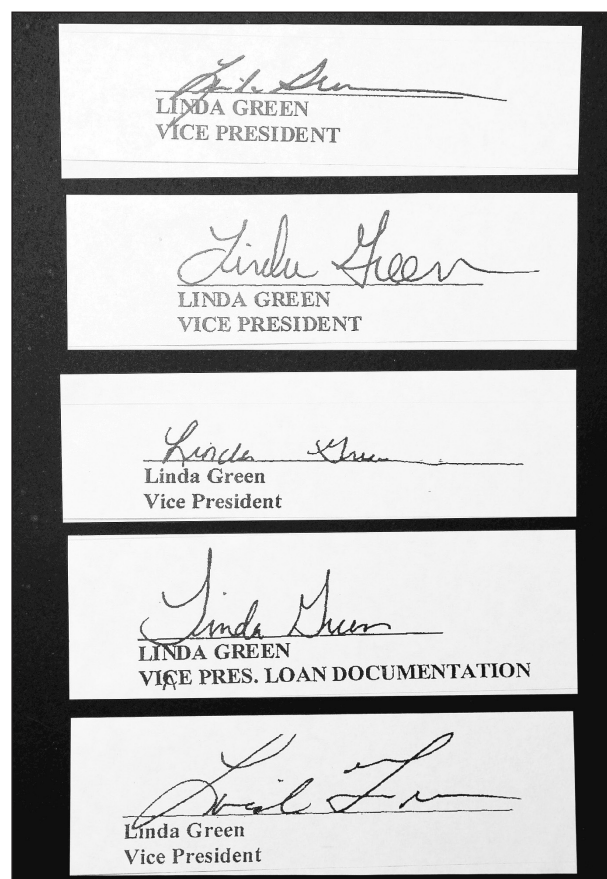
Robo-signing refers to a variety of practices. It can mean a qualified executive in the mortgage industry signs a mortgage affidavit document without verifying the information. It can mean someone forges an executive's signature, or a lower-level employee signs his or her own name with a fake title. It can mean failing to comply with notary procedures. In all of these cases, robo-signing involves people signing documents and swearing to their accuracy without verifying any of the information.

Most of the tainted mortgage documents in question last fall were related to homes in foreclosure. But much of the suspect paperwork that has been filed since then is for refinancing or for new purchases by people who are in good standing in the eyes of the bank. In addition, foreclosures are down 30 percent this year from last. Home sales have also fallen. So the new suspect documents come at a time when much less paperwork is streaming through the nation's mortgage machinery. □



**Salem, Mass. Registrar of Deeds John O'Brien stands near copies of robo-signed signatures at his office, in Salem, Monday, July 18, 2011. O'Brien said an investigation of more than 710,000 documents in his office found that 25,187 homeowners in the county, or about 3.5 percent, have paperwork on file with signatures he believes are fraudulent.**

**Associated Press**



**Photo copies of robo-signed signatures taken from documents are seen at the office of the Registrar of Deeds John O'Brien, in Salem, Mass., Monday, July 18, 2011.**

**Associated Press**

And in Michigan, a fraud investigator who works on behalf of homeowners says he has uncovered documents filed this year bearing the purported signature of Marshall Isaacs, an attorney with foreclosure law firm Orlans Associates. Isaac



# Fears about debt send gold price to record

STAN CHOE

AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Gold's reputation as a safe place for your money sent it above \$1,600 for the first time.

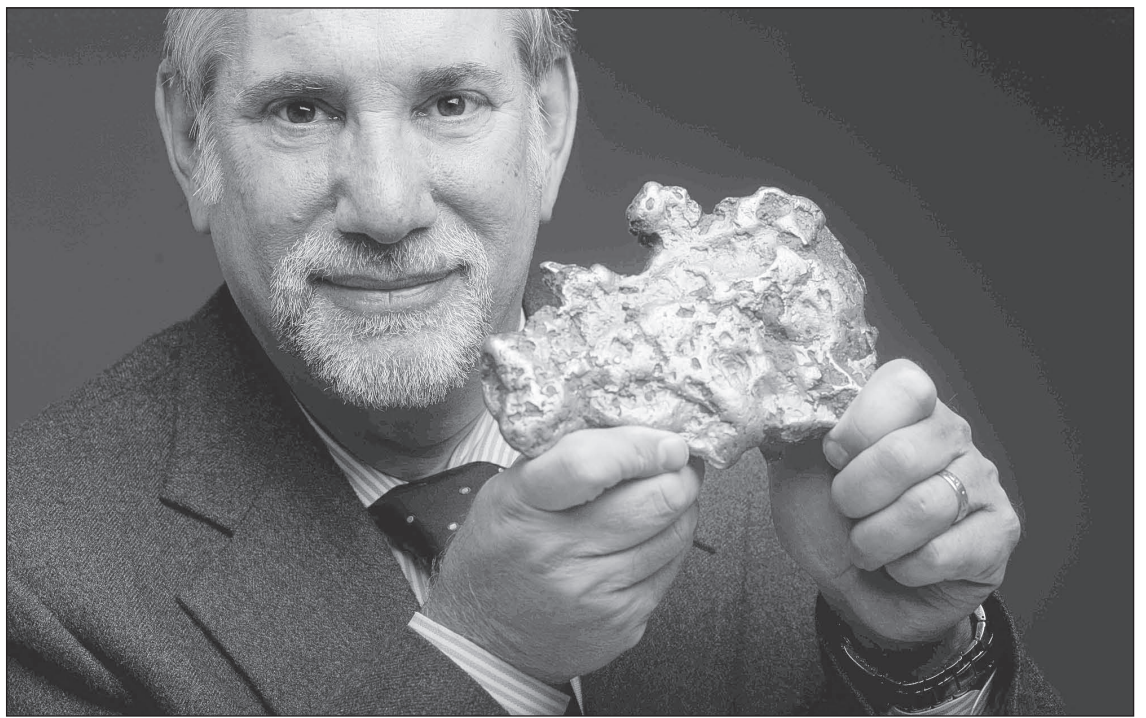
Investors are worried about debt problems on both sides of the Atlantic. So they bid gold up \$12.30 an ounce Monday to settle at \$1,602.40. That's a record for the market price for gold, but below its 1980 peak after adjusting for inflation. An ounce of gold at that time cost \$850, or about \$2,400 in today's dollars.

Gold is looking better by the day because debt problems in the U.S. and Europe are making two other so-called safe havens, the dollar and the euro, seem shaky. The U.S. could default on its debt on Aug. 2 if Congress and the White House don't agree to raise the country's borrowing limit. In Europe, investors worry that Greece may de-

fault. Countries including Italy, Spain and Ireland are also struggling to pay their bills. Defaults could mean losses for the banks that own bonds issued by those countries, and that could trigger widespread disruption in financial markets.

Why own gold? It's because gold has a long history as a way of preserving wealth, said Tom Winmill, portfolio manager of the \$96 million Midas Fund. The fund owns gold and stocks in gold miners. "In 6,000 years, gold is one of the very few assets that have never gone to zero." Winmill expects gold to rise to \$1,800 by the end of 2012.

Investors believe gold is safe because it doesn't depend on a government's ability to repay a bond, like a Treasury or a Greek note. Neither do other commodities like crude oil, which has the added use of powering automobiles. "But it's much easier to pick up a bar of gold than a swimming pool



**Coin dealer Don Kagin holds a large gold nugget in the studio of the San Francisco Chronicle in this Friday January 14, 2011 file photo in San Francisco, Calif. The 6.2-pound hunk of gold auctioned for nearly half a million dollars earlier this year after a California man claimed to have found it on his Sierra Nevada property turns out to have been dug up decades earlier in Australia.**

Associated Press

of oil," said James Steel, an analyst with HSBC.

Gold rose 21 percent in dollar terms in the 12 months through June 30, accord-

ing to the World Gold Council, an industry group. It rose against other currencies, too: up 2.2 percent in euros, 10.4 percent in Japa-

nese yen and 16.5 percent in Indian rupees. But gold fell 5.5 percent against the Swiss franc, which is seen as one of the world's safest currencies.

Gold's rise has accelerated in the last two weeks: Monday was its 10th straight day of gains after it closed at \$1,482.60 July 1. Gold has also steadily risen since the start of 2009, when it cost \$880. The Federal Reserve has kept short-term interest rates at a record low of nearly zero since December 2008. Low interest rates weaken the appeal of the dollar, and that in turn sends gold higher.

Investors are behind much of the increase in the price of gold. Demand from investors rose 26 percent in the first quarter from a year earlier, according to industry data. Demand for gold from dentists for crowns and from companies for use in electronics was flat. Demand for gold in jewelry rose 7 percent.

The amount of gold held by exchange-traded funds and similar investments is at a record, according to Barclays Capital. Exchange-traded funds, also known as ETFs, trade like stocks and are a way for investors to own gold without having to store and insure actual gold bars or coins. □

## World Bank chief slams U.S. leadership on trade deal

FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

**GENEVA (AP)** — The president of the World Bank criticized the United States on Monday for its lack of leadership in pushing through a new global trade agreement that he said would boost economic growth.

Robert Zoellick, a former U.S. trade negotiator under President George W. Bush, labeled as "excuses" Obama administration complaints that the so-called Doha round of global commerce talks are structurally flawed.

"I think the facts speak for themselves on whether you have excuses or leadership," he told reporters at the World Trade Organization in Geneva.

U.S. trade officials responded Monday that the administration has been a chief proponent of an ambitious Doha round, but that the way it was framed early on — putting emerging trade powers like China on a level with some of the world's poorest countries — doesn't match the new reality.



**World Bank president Robert Zoellick attends the third Global Review of aid for trade co-hosted by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva, Switzerland, Monday, July 18, 2011.**

Associated Press

"Unfortunately, in part because of the structure of the negotiations, there has been little appetite for that sort of ambition by other major trading partners," said Carol Guthrie, spokeswoman for the U.S. Trade Representative's office in Washington.

Zoellick said the talks need American leadership if they are to produce a new free trade deal. When the negotiations to slash tariffs

worldwide were launched in the Qatari capital in 2001, many predicted the result would add billions of dollars to the global economy.

Trade diplomats now say the original targets set for the round are beyond reach because of unbridgeable differences between the United States and major developing countries such as India, China and Brazil. Instead, negotiators are looking

to agree a "Doha light" package that would allow countries to save face after 10 years of costly and fruitless talks.

"The mini-deal will probably be about as hard as the big deal," Zoellick warned. Rather than aim for a more modest agreement, he urged WTO members to "double down on Doha." If countries are ambitious but fail, it will be easier to apportion blame, he said.

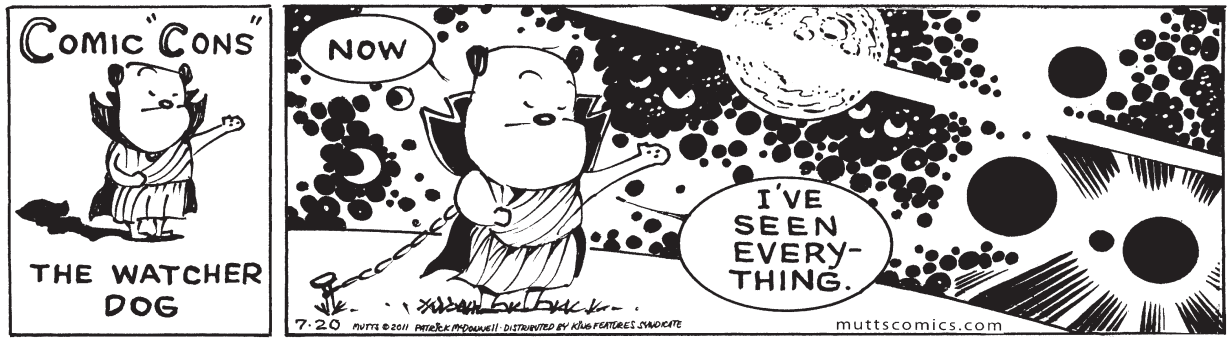
The World Bank chief predicted that only a push by political leaders would end what he termed a "death watch" on Doha.

"The world needs a global growth strategy and opening trade drives growth," said Zoellick. "We've seen it with proven effectiveness all throughout the past 60 or 70 years."

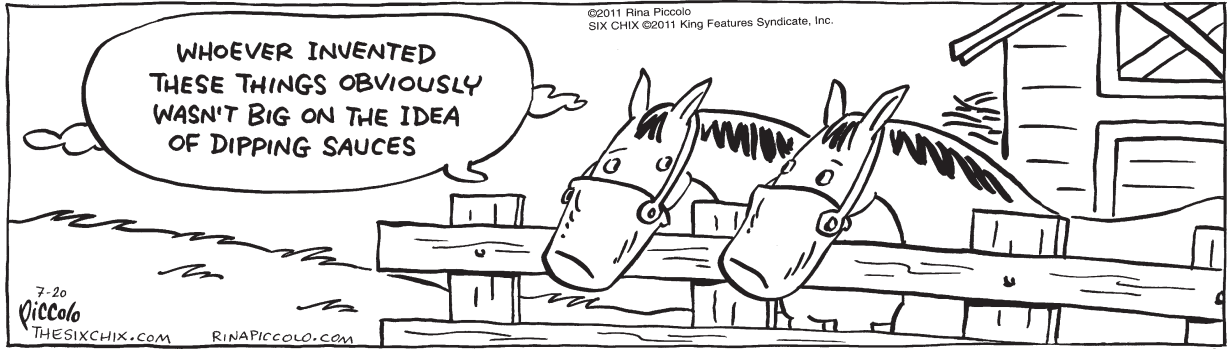
The World Bank, WTO and other institutions launched a program Monday to collect and make freely available data on international trade. The aim is to help exporters and policy makers see clearly what are the costs of doing business overseas. □



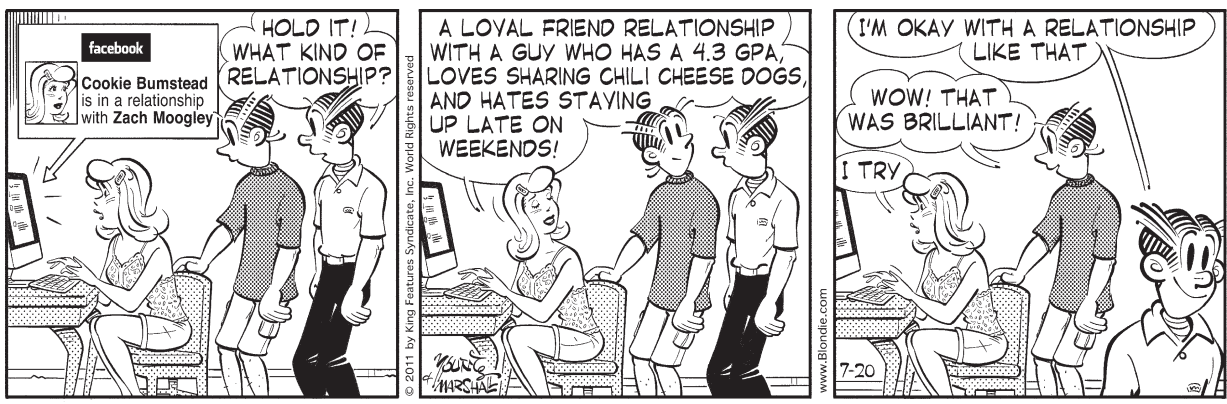
Mutts



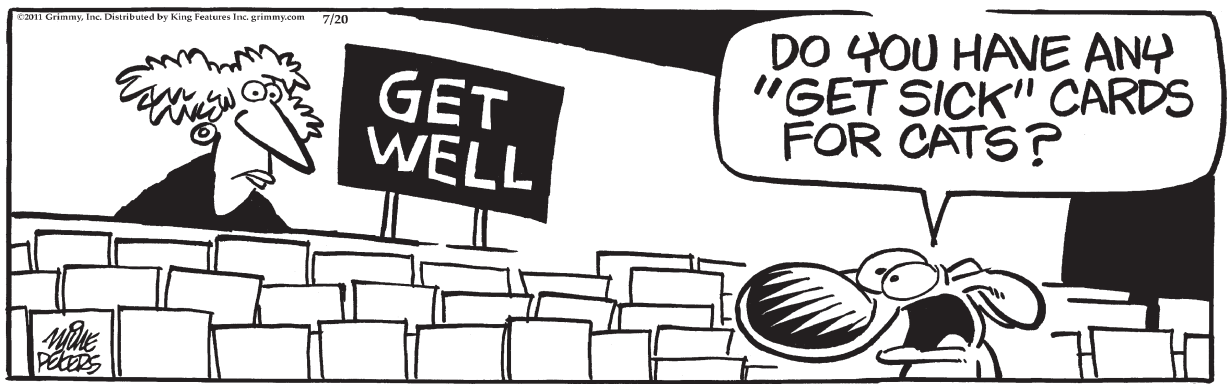
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	4	2	3				9	7
		7	9	1		5	8	
				7		2		
			7	9	5			
		5				1		
3	2		6				5	
2							3	
	7	1	5				6	
			8	2			7	

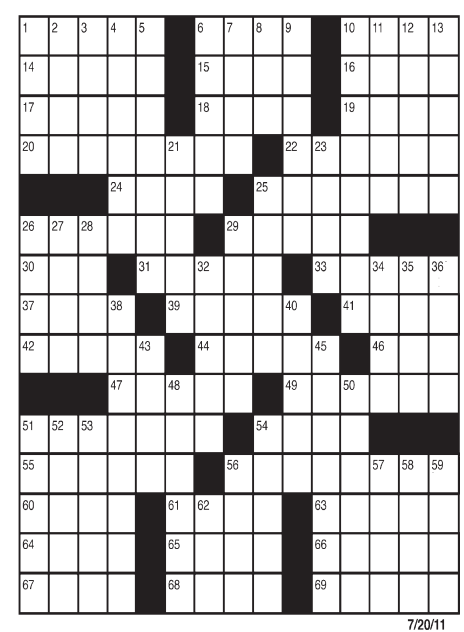
Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

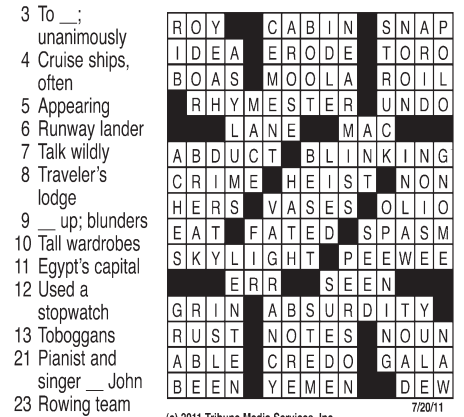
Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	2	8	1	4	5	6	3	7
6	5	4	7	2	3	1	9	8
1	7	3	8	6	9	2	4	5
5	3	7	2	9	6	4	8	1
2	8	6	4	3	1	5	7	9
4	1	9	5	8	7	3	2	6
3	4	1	6	7	8	9	5	2
8	6	2	9	5	4	7	1	3
7	9	5	3	1	2	8	6	4

- ACROSS
- Egg shapes
  - Overly proper
  - \_\_\_ up; misbehaves
  - Like's lady
  - Lovers' \_\_\_; romantic path
  - Piece of a train track
  - Ridiculous
  - Landers and Jillian
  - Silent actor
  - Apartment building in the slums
  - Made points
  - Vex
  - High school day divisions
  - \_\_\_ matter; isn't important
  - Baffling question
  - Shade tree
  - Ambitions
  - Has on, as clothing
  - Takes target practice
  - Din
  - Ginger \_\_\_; cookie variety
  - Faithful
  - Film holders
  - Miner's find
  - Poles on ships
  - Charred
  - Purplish red
  - Part of the ear
  - Chairman's outline
  - Least stylish
  - Walking stick
  - Notion
  - Dad's brother
  - Haughtiness
  - Crack; fissure
  - Spine-chilling
  - Dollar bills
  - Clockmaker \_\_\_ Thomas
  - Bongos
- DOWN
- Leave out
  - Wind indicator
  - To \_\_\_; unanimously
  - Cruise ships, often
  - Appearing
  - Runway lander
  - Talk wildly
  - Traveler's lodge
  - \_\_\_ up; blunders
  - Tall wardrobes
  - Egypt's capital
  - Used a stopwatch
  - Toboggans
  - Pianist and singer \_\_\_ John
  - Rowing team
  - Group that helps a sheriff
  - Pass out cards
  - Mixture
  - TV show award
  - \_\_\_ one's trade; works diligently
  - Largest artery
  - Shortly
  - Uncommon
  - Drove too fast
  - Uniformity
  - Arm joint
  - Come to earth
  - Tamed
  - Elevator alternative
  - Carl or Rob
  - Region in China
  - Once more
  - Literary classification
  - Reluctant
  - Skilled
  - Beige shade
  - Slender
  - Golfing peps
  - Perish



7/20/11





# TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, July 19, the 200th day of 2011. There are 165 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

**1333** - The Scots are routed in battle of Halidon Hill, a significant setback in their fight for independence from England.

**1545** - The English flagship Mary Rose capsizes accidentally and sinks off Portsmouth. It is raised in 1982.

**1610** - Vasily Shuysky, czar of Russia, is deposed after the Swedish army is defeated by Polish invaders.

**1864** - Nanking, the capital of the Taiping rebellion in China, falls to government troops who proceed to slaughter 100,000 people.

**1907** - Emperor of Korea abdicates in favor of his son under Japan's pressure.

**1918** - German armies begin retreat across Marne River after being defeated in their last great offensive in France.

**1939** - American physician Roy P. Scholz of St. Louis, Missouri, becomes first surgeon to use fiberglass sutures.

**1966** - Frank Sinatra, 50, marries 20-year old actress Mia Farrow.

**1969** - Apollo 11 and its astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins, travel into orbit around the moon.

**1975** - U.S. and Soviet astronauts and cosmonauts end their two-day linkup in space.

**1979** - Nicaragua's leftist Sandinistas claim revolutionary victory, two days after President Anastasio Somoza flees the country.

**1993** - The United States and North Korea reach an interim agreement to ease confrontation over North Korea's refusal to permit inspection of suspected nuclear sites.

**1995** - U.S. Congress votes to block billions of dollars in further loans to bail out the ailing Mexican economy, despite the urging of President Bill Clinton.

**2007** - Twenty-three South Korean Christian aid workers are taken hostage while on a bus to Kandahar, Afghanistan. Two are shot, two women are freed, and the Taliban agree to free the remaining 19 if South Korea ends missionary work in Afghanistan and withdraws troops.

**2008** — Pope Benedict XVI apologizes for the sexual abuse of children by Australia's Roman Catholic clergy at a Mass in Sydney.

## Today's Birthdays:

Al-Bukhari, Islamic theologian (810-870); Samuel Colt, U.S. inventor (1814-1862); Gottfried Keller, German author (1819-1890); Edgar Degas, French artist (1834-1917); Vladimir Mayakovsky, Russian poet (1893-1930); Brian May, British guitarist w/rock group Queen (1947-); Ilie Nastase, Romanian tennis player (1946-); Anthony Edwards, U.S. actor, (1962-).

## Thought For Today:

I always turn to the sports page first. The sports page records people's accomplishments; the front page nothing but man's failure — Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the United States (1891-1974). □



Today is Anthony Edwards' birthday

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(Even Yr.)

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Wk 45 \$11,000 2BR

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Wk 46 \$10,000 2BR Pool\*

Wk 47 \$10,000 2BR Pool\*

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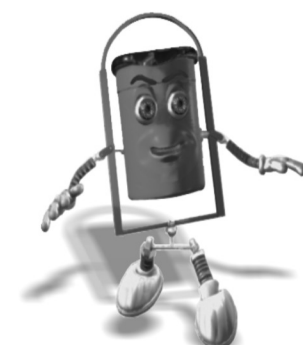
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Fire Dept. II 582-1108  
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Police 582-4000

**San Nicolas**  
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**Women in Difficulties Foundation**  
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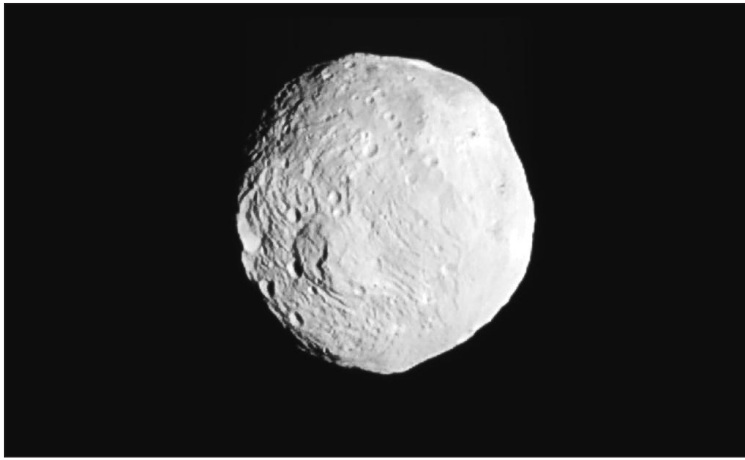
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# NASA spacecraft is orbiting massive asteroid



This image of Vesta released by NASA was captured by Dawn spacecraft on July 9, 2011 and was taken from a distance of about 62,000 miles away from the protoplanet. Each pixel in the image corresponds to roughly 5.8 miles.

**Associated Press**

**PASADENA, California (AP)** — NASA's Dawn spacecraft was captured into orbit around the massive asteroid Vesta after a 1.7 billion-mile journey and is preparing to begin a study of a surface that may date to the earliest era of the solar system, the space agency said Monday. The entry into orbit occurred while the space-

craft's antenna was pointed away from Earth, so mission controllers had to wait for Dawn to re-establish contact to confirm its success.

The capture was estimated to have occurred at 10 p.m. PDT Friday, when Dawn was 9,900 miles from Vesta and 117 million miles from Earth in the main asteroid belt between Mars

and Jupiter, according to a statement from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

"We are beginning the study of arguably the oldest extant primordial surface in the solar system," the mission's principal investigator, Christopher Russell from the University of California, Los Angeles, said in the statement.

NASA said that after the orbital capture, Dawn sent an initial close-up image taken for navigation purposes. Before the Dawn mission, images of Vesta were obtained by ground- and space-based telescopes but did not show much surface detail.

eter, is the second-most massive object in the asteroid belt and is believed to be the source of many meteorites that fall to Earth.

Dawn will continue to approach Vesta over the next three weeks, search for possible moons and make more navigation images. It begins gathering science data in August. Vesta's gravitational pull on Dawn will be measured to more accurately determine the asteroid's mass. The spacecraft will eventually get as close as 110 miles from the surface.

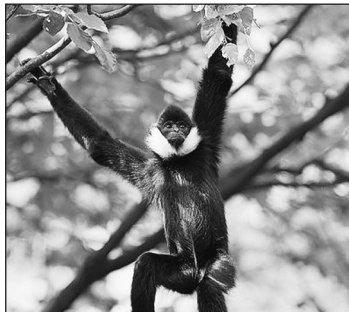
Dawn was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, in 2007 and used an ion propulsion system to reach

Vesta. Ion engines provide gentle yet constant acceleration to achieve high speeds.

The spacecraft will study Vesta for a year and then continue on to the most massive object in the main asteroid belt, the “dwarf planet” Ceres. That encounter is scheduled to occur in February 2015.

JPL is managing the \$466 million mission for NASA. UCLA is responsible for the mission's science. The German Aerospace Center, the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research, the Italian Space Agency and the Italian National Astrophysical Institute also have roles in the mission. □

# Largest population of rare gibbon found in Vietnam



In this July 2011 photo released by Conservation International, an adult male northern white-cheeked crested gibbon hangs on a tree branch at Pu Mat National Park, Nghe An province in Vietnam.

**Associated Press**

**HANOI, Vietnam (AP) —**

Conservationists listening to a critically endangered primate's morning calls in central Vietnam's mountains heard a surprising response. About 455 animals were counted there based on their calls, making it the largest known population of northern white-cheeked crested gibbons.

Wildlife group Conservation International conducted the census in 2010 by recording the loud song-

like vocalizations the gibbons use to mark territory and attract and keep mates. The primates were in 130 different groups living in thick jungle of the mountains near the Laos border, the group said in a statement Monday. Earlier surveys elsewhere in Vietnam had not documented any populations larger than a dozen groups. The primate was known to exist in China, Vietnam and Laos. It is considered functionally extinct in China, but its numbers are unclear in Laos because little research has been conducted there. The count was conducted in Pu Mat National Park in Nghe An province, and the conservation group expressed concerns about planned road projects that could destroy habitat in the place where the species has its last known viable population. □

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## In tax return case:

# Ja Rule sentenced to two years

**SAMANTHA HENRY,**  
**Associated Press**  
**NEWARK, New Jersey**  
**(AP)** —

Rapper and actor Ja Rule was sentenced Monday to more than two years in federal prison for failing to file income tax returns, and said a combination of youthful inexperience, bad advice and an inability to manage fame and fortune lead to his financial troubles.

"I in no way attempted to deceive the government or do anything illegal," he said, minutes before being sentenced in a New Jersey federal court. "I was a young man who made a lot of money — I'm getting a little choked up — I didn't know how to deal with these finances, and I didn't have people to guide me, so I made mistakes."

The multiplatinum-selling artist, whose real name is Jeffrey Atkins, admitted in March that he failed to pay taxes on more than \$3 million that he earned between 2004 and 2006 while living in Saddle River. Although he pleaded guilty to three counts of unfiled taxes, he admitted he hadn't filed for five years, according to U.S. Attorney Paul Fishman.

Ja Rule was sentenced in New York City last month to up to two years in prison after he pleaded guilty to attempted criminal weapon possession. The case stemmed from a gun found in his car in 2007. Police said they stopped Ja Rule's \$250,000-plus Maybach sports car for speeding and found



**Ja Rule**

a loaded .40-caliber semiautomatic gun in a rear door. The gun wasn't registered. He was charged under a New York law that generally bars people from having firearms outside their homes or workplaces. In the federal case, U.S. Magistrate Patty Shwartz in Newark ruled that the majority of his 28-month federal sentence could be served at the same time as the New York state prison sentence.

Depending on his release date for his New York sentence — he could serve as little as 18 months in that case by meeting good behavior requirements and other standards — he could serve from four to 12 months of the federal sentence. The federal time will be served at the Oneida Correctional Facility in upstate New York, where he is serving the state sentence.

He has also been ordered to pay \$1.1 million in unpaid taxes. □

# Songwriter Jerry Ragovoy dies

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Jerry Ragovoy, a songwriter credited with songs made famous by the Rolling Stones, Janis Joplin and others, has died at the age of 80. Ragovoy died last week at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City. Jim Steinblatt, a representative for the performance rights group ASCAP, says he died of complications from a stroke.

Among some of Ragovoy's most famous tunes were



**Jerry Ragovoy**

# Mariinsky Ballet loosens up in appealing NY run

**JOCELYN NOVECK**  
**AP National Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Anytime you have both Sea Horses and Wet Nurses listed on a ballet program, you can pretty safely assume it's going to be more interesting than your basic "Swan Lake" or "Sleeping Beauty." But even that tantalizing hint of weirdness didn't prepare for the goofy, inspired fun of "The Little Humpbacked Horse," a romp through Russian folklore that was the clear highlight of the Mariinsky Ballet's weeklong appearance at the Lincoln Center Festival. Goofy? That's not an adjective one would generally use to describe the Mariinsky, better known to most of us by its former name, the Kirov Ballet. Grand, illustrious, legendary, sometimes mannered and stuffy — any of those would seem more like it.

But bring a stable of some of the world's best trained dancers together with an inspired choreographer who likes to have fun along the way, and it can do wonders.

And there's no question that the prodigiously talented Alexei Ratmansky, former artistic director of the Bolshoi Ballet, is the man of the moment in the ballet world.

Not everything Ratmansky touches turns to gold — his "Anna Karenina" was also on display during the Mariinsky run at the Metropolitan Opera House that end-

ed Saturday night. It was a pretty dull if well-intentioned affair, plagued by a mostly plodding score. But his 2009 "Humpbacked Horse" was a perfect vehicle to display some of the many facets of Ratmansky's talent — arresting, inventive choreography,

water for her (don't ask, it's too complicated). Mocking the tsar isn't a problem these days, as it was during part of Russia's history — the only problem for non-Russian audiences, at least, may be understanding the convoluted plot (the program notes



**The Mariinsky Ballet, featuring Yekaterina Kondaurava as Young Mare/Princess of the sea, right, are shown during a performance of "The Little Humpbacked Horse."**

**(AP Photo/Lincoln Center Festival, Natasha Razina)**

a love for his subject, fondness for his dancers and an infectious embrace of silliness.

He was aided immeasurably in this by the enthusiasm of his cast. A standout at Saturday's matinee was the lovely Alina Somova as the Tsar Maiden, a vision in white and gold with a long, blond braid. Somova's combination of charm, spunk, physical beauty and lush dancing was enough to make you understand why the buffoonish Tsar would jump into a cauldron of boiling

help — a bit). But all one really needs to know is that it concerns a young boy, Ivan the Fool, who manages to overcome various obstacles to win the Maiden's hand, aided by his trusted friend, the Humpbacked Horse.

The score is by the Russian composer Rodion Shchedrin, whose music was being highlighted by the Mariinsky all week — the composer also penned the "Anna Karenina" score and arranged Bizet's music for "Carmen Suite," also performed here. □

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Winning!!

# Sheen will take on new sitcom

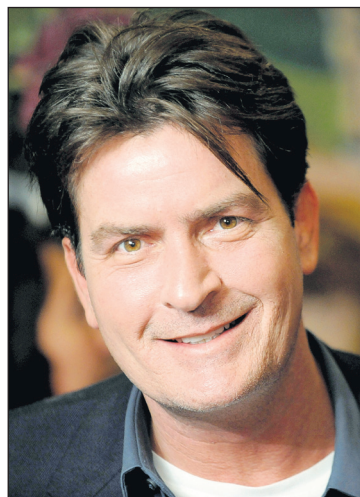
**FRAZIER MOORE,**  
**AP Television Writer**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** —

Charlie Sheen, who was fired from "Two and a Half Men" in March, aims to launch another hit sitcom — this time, on his own terms.

The tempestuous star is planning to return to series television in the hopefully titled "Anger Management," based on the 2003 film of the same name.

With no network in place, the new series will be produced by Lionsgate Television and shopped to prospective broadcast and cable networks by Lionsgate subsidiary Debmar-Mercury, the company announced Monday.

The 45-year-old actor will have a "significant ownership stake" in the series, Lionsgate said. He will also gain "a certain amount of creative control," he noted. "I chose 'Anger Management' because, while it might be a big stretch for me to play a guy with serious anger management issues, I think it is a great concept," Sheen said.



Charlie Sheen

In the film, which starred Adam Sandler and Jack Nicholson, a mild-mannered man is ordered to attend group anger-management sessions led by a therapist who needs anger therapy himself.

The role Sheen will play in the series was not specified by Lionsgate.

Analyst Bill Carroll of Katz Media speculated that the series would start on cable for initial exposure and then move to cable and broadcast syndication. □

On FX:

## 'American Horror Story' set for fall

**LYNN ELBER**

**AP Television Writer**  
**LOS ANGELES (AP)** —

An "American Horror Story" is coming to TV.

The FX channel said Monday it has ordered 13 episodes of a new drama it says has "reinvented the horror genre." The show is from the producers of "Nip/Tuck" and "Glee."

"American Horror Story" stars Dylan McDermott ("The Practice") and Connie Britton ("Friday Night Lights") as a couple who move their family from Boston to Los Angeles to, as FX put it, "reconcile past anguish."

The drama also features Oscar-winning star Jessica Lange ("Tootsie," "Blue Sky") in her first regular TV series role, along with Fran-



Connie Britton

ces Conroy of "Six Feet Under"

"American Horror Story" was co-created by executive producers Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk. The drama begins production in Los Angeles next week and is set to premiere on FX in October. □

Like old Hollywood,

## Sony pictures banks on familiar faces

**MICHAEL CIEPLY**

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**LOS ANGELES** — If Louis B. Mayer haunts the Irving Thalberg Building, once his seat of power at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, he may recognize more than the walnut walls. The building is now the home of Sony Pictures Entertainment, and there are signs that Mayer's old studio system is being revived.

As Hollywood has backed away from movie stars as too expensive and too unreliable, Sony has embraced its favorites. On Friday, the studio will open "Friends With Benefits," a romantic comedy with Justin Timberlake in a leading role. It is Sony's third film with Timberlake in less than 10 months and comes on the heels of his performances in "The Social Network" last October and in "Bad Teacher," which opened just more than three weeks ago.

This month Sony released "Zookeeper," a comedy, made in partnership with MGM, with Kevin James as the star, a writer and a producer. Next year, it has "Here Comes the Boom" with James, last year it had "Grown Ups," and the year before, "Paul Blart: Mall Cop" — in all, four of his latest five pictures.

Sony, whose film operation for 15 years has been run by Amy Pascal, the company's co-chairwoman, has emerged as perhaps the closest contemporary approximation of a classic studio.

Its movies change, but those who make them remain remarkably consistent, thanks to personal relationships and shared tastes that have largely supplanted the rigid contractual arrangements that allowed Mayer to build an empire around the likes of Norma Shearer, Greta Garbo, Lionel Barrymore and Clark Gable.

Of the Sony films released in 2011, the studio reckons that all have involved filmmakers or stars with whom it has worked repeatedly. Adam Sandler and Will Smith, two of Sony's most reliable suppliers, both have a film on tap in the next

year. Sandler, 16 of whose latest 21 films have been at Sony, next has "Jack and Jill," a comedy set for release in November. In May, Smith stars in "Men in Black III." It will be the eighth time he has landed at Sony in his last 10 films (putting aside voice work and a cameo elsewhere).

"It gives us stability," Pascal said.

This kind of stability is rare in Hollywood, where there has

percent of the unit's reported \$466 million in operating profit for the year came from two television transactions.

But for many in contemporary Hollywood — where virtually everyone is suffering from the decline in home video revenue — the goal is not so much to score huge profits as to stay in the game until presumed new revenue streams grow from quickly evolving digi-



Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis in "Friends With Benefits," a romantic comedy and Sony's third film with Timberlake in less than 10 months. As Hollywood has backed away from movie stars as too expensive and too unreliable, Sony has embraced its favorites.

(David Giesbrecht/Screen Gems)

been a decline in the number of production deals. Instead, studios are focusing on core relationships. Thus, Universal Pictures has worked repeatedly with Judd Apatow, who has directed three movies there since his debut with "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" in 2005, and Warner's relationship with Clint Eastwood has lasted decades.

But few have matched the breadth or consistency of relationships at Sony, where Dennis Dugan, the director of "Jack and Jill," has made nine of 10 pictures since 1997, including "I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry" and "Don't Mess With the Zohan."

"It's Hollywood, it's still whom you know," said Peter Dekom, an entertainment lawyer. The arrangement has been steadily, if not always hugely, profitable. In its latest fiscal year, which ended March 31, Sony Pictures contributed \$7.3 billion, or about 8 percent, of \$87 billion in total revenue for its parent company in Japan, the Sony Corp. In addition, about 78

tal technologies.

At Sony, that has meant finding a comfort zone in which executives can work regularly, and often economically, with a core group of stars and filmmakers who consistently earn their keep, even if their pictures do not often challenge the more expensive animated and effects-driven blockbusters at the box office.

If Sony smacks of the old studio system in substance, the style has changed. Mayer talked down to stars and filmmakers from a carpeted dais in his Thalberg building office; Pascal is more likely to curl up on the couch beside them.

Pascal spoke from a marketing conference in Cancun last week, where she joined Michael Lynton, the studio's chief executive, and Doug Belgrad, the president of its Columbia Pictures unit, in a telephone conversation about a system they described as having evolved not by conscious design, but rather from the personal chemistry among executives. □



# The republican retreat



ROSS DOUTHAT

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For months, Republican leaders used all the tools at their disposal – the anti-spending intensity of their base, the White House's desire for a deal, the specter of dire consequences if the debt ceiling wasn't raised – to leverage their way into a favorable position. Despite controlling just one house of Congress, they spent the spring and summer setting the agenda for the country: not whether to cut spending, but how deeply and how fast.

But last week, the Republican offensive suddenly collapsed in disarray. In the space of a few days, a party that once looked capable of pressing the White House into a deal that would have left liberals fuming found itself falling back on two less-palatable options instead: either a procedural gimmick that would try to pin the responsibility for raising the ceiling on President Barack Obama, or a stand on principle that would risk plunging the U.S. economy back into recession.

What went wrong? It turns out that Republicans didn't have a plan for transitioning from the early phase of a high-stakes political negotiation, when the goal is to draw stark lines and force the other side to move your way, to the late phase, in which the public relations battle becomes crucial and the goal is to make the other side seem unreasonable, intransigent and even a little bit insane. Winning the latter phase doesn't require making enormous compromises, or giving up the ground you've gained. But it requires at least the appearance of conciliation, and a few examples of concessions that you're willing to (oh-so-magnanimously) make to those unreasonable ideologues in the other party. For Republicans, this would have required one of two maneuvers: either modestly scaling back the size of the spending cuts they were seeking, or finding a few places in the tax code (the ethanol tax credit? the carried-interest loophole? those corporate jets the president keeps talking about?) where they could live with raising revenue by eliminating a tax break or capping a deduction.

For months, I had assumed that the Republican leadership would be able to find support within its caucus for option No. 2. Based on John Boehner's brief flirtation with a "grand bargain" that would have included tax reform, the speaker of the House thought

so as well.

But based on how quickly he abandoned that flirtation, it appears we were both mistaken. The result was a hanging curveball for Obama, who spent last week posing as the Last Reasonable Man in Washington, contrasting his willingness to compromise on entitlements with the House Republicans' intransigence on taxes. To conservatives, this has been a galling spectacle. A president who spent his first two years in office taking spending to a historic high is accusing them of fiscal irresponsibility? A president who spent the spring demagoguing House Republicans for their willingness to restructure Medicare is citing a much more modest set of cuts as evidence of his fiscal seriousness?

But this fury misses the point. Obama has been playing the reasonability card so successfully because his opponents won't (or can't) play one of their own.

It's not that Republicans needed to tug their forelock and go along with whatever grand bargain the White House whipped up. But to win the endgame, they needed something they were willing to concede, something they could tout in public as an example of meeting the Democrats partway.

Their inability to make even symbolic concessions has turned a winning hand into a losing one. A majority of Americans want to close the deficit primarily with spending cuts – which is to say, they're primed to side with conservatives in the debt-ceiling debate. But in trying to turn that "primarily" into a "completely," the right has squandered this advantage. By 48 percent to 34 percent, a Quinnipiac poll found last week, Americans will blame Republicans if debt-ceiling gridlock precipitates an economic crisis.

In the end, the threat of such a backlash will probably impel Republicans to make some kind of concession anyway, if they don't admit that's what they're doing. (The maneuver that Mitch McConnell and Harry Reid are working on, for instance, would reportedly cut spending by \$1.5 trillion and then let the president extend the debt ceiling on his own, effectively shaving about \$500 billion off the spending cuts that Republicans were originally seeking.)

By backing into a compromise and shrouding it in procedural gimmickry, Republican legislators may hope to throw the Tea Party's watchdogs off the scent. But both the politics and the substance of such a deal would probably be worse for conservatives than the kind of bargain that might have been available otherwise – if more Republicans had only recognized that sometimes a well-chosen concession can be the better part of valor. □



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PAUL KRUGMAN

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Ever since the current economic crisis began, it has seemed that five words sum up the central principle of U.S. financial policy: Go easy on the bankers.

This principle was on display during the final months of the Bush administration, when a huge lifeline for the banks was made available with few strings attached. It was equally on display in the early months of the Obama administration, when President Barack Obama reneged on his campaign pledge to "change our bankruptcy laws to make it easier for families to stay in their homes."

And the principle is still operating right now, as federal officials press state attorneys general to accept a very modest settlement from banks that engaged in abusive mortgage practices.

Why the kid-gloves treatment? Money and influence no doubt play their part; Wall Street is a huge source of campaign donations, and agencies that are supposed to regulate banks often end up serving them instead. But officials have also argued at each point of the process that letting banks off the hook serves the interests of the economy as a whole.

It doesn't. The failure to seek real mortgage relief early in the Obama administration is one reason we still have 9 percent unemployment. And right now, the arguments that officials are reportedly making for a quick, bank-friendly settlement of the mortgage-abuse scandal don't make sense.

## Letting bankers walk

Before I get to that, a word about the current state of the mortgage mess.

Last fall, we learned that many mortgage lenders were engaging in illegal foreclosures. Most conspicuously, "robo-signers" were attesting that banks had the required documentation to seize homes without checking to see whether they actually had the right to do so – and in many cases they didn't.

How widespread and serious were the abuses? The answer is that we don't know. Nine months have passed since the robo-signing scandal broke, yet there still hasn't been a serious investigation of its reach. That's because states, suffering from severe budget troubles, lack the resources for a full investigation – and federal officials, who do have the resources, have chosen not to use them.

Instead, these officials are pushing for a settlement with mortgage companies that, reports Shahien Nasiripour of Huffington Post, "would broadly absolve the firms of wrongdoing in exchange for penalties reaching \$30 billion and assurances that the firms will adhere to better practices."

Why the rush to settle? As far as I can tell, there are two principal arguments being made for letting the banks off easy. The first is the claim that resolving the mortgage mess quickly is the key to getting the housing market back on its feet. The second, less explicitly stated, is the claim that getting tough with the banks would undermine broader prospects for recovery.

Neither of these arguments makes much sense.

The claim that removing the legal cloud over foreclosure would help the housing market – in particular, that it would help support housing prices – leaves me scratching my head. It would just accelerate foreclosures, and if more families were evicted from their homes, that would mean more

homes offered for sale – an increase in supply. An increase in the supply of a good usually pushes that good's price down, not up. Why should the effect on housing go the opposite way?

You might point to the mortgage relief that would supposedly be extracted as part of the settlement. But if mortgage relief is that crucial, why isn't the administration making a major push to reinvigorate its own Home Affordable Modification Program, which has spent only a small fraction of its money? Or if making that program actually work is hard, why should we believe that any program instituted as part of a mortgage-abuse settlement would work any better? Sorry, but the case that letting banks off the hook would help the housing market just doesn't hold together.

What about the argument that getting tough with the banks would threaten the overall economy? Here the question is: What's holding the economy back?

It's not the state of the banks. It's true that fears about bank solvency disrupted financial markets in late 2008 and early 2009. But those markets have long since returned to normal, in large part because everyone now knows that banks will be bailed out if they get in trouble.

The big drag on the economy now is the overhang of household debt, largely created by the \$5.6 trillion in mortgage debt that households took on during the bubble years. Serious mortgage relief could make a dent in that problem; a \$30-billion settlement from the banks, even if it proved more effective than the government's modification program, would not.

So when officials tell you that we must rush to settle with the banks for the sake of the economy, don't believe them. We should do this right, and hold bankers accountable for their actions. □



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